



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

June 2019

Purpose

Legislation relating to the provision of Religious Education was consolidated by the Education Act 1996. It re-affirmed that RE is part of the Basic Curriculum and "should be taught to all pupils in full-time education" and "shall reflect that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, whilst taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain".

Aims for R.E

The aim of RE at Scott Primary is to give children opportunities to be aware of and appreciate the major world religions, and to be aware that religious belief helps people make sense of important issues in everyday life. Here at Scott Primary School, we equip pupils with systematic knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and beliefs, enabling them to develop their ideas, values and identities. We enable children to reflect on what it means to have a faith and to develop their own spiritual knowledge and understanding. We help the children learn about religions as well as learn from them.

The overall aim is stated in the RE Agreed Syllabus

The principal aim of RE is to explore what people believe and what difference this makes to how they live, so that pupils can gain the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to handle questions raised by religion and belief, reflecting on their own ideas and ways of living.

The following aims of Religious Education reflect the subject's educational rationale and purpose.

Religious education should help pupils to

- acquire and develop a sound knowledge of Christianity and other principle world religions represented in Great Britain;
- develop an understanding of the influences of belief, values and traditions on individuals, communities, societies and culture;
- have respect for other peoples' views, respecting their right to hold different beliefs from their own and to celebrate the diversity in society,
- develop investigative and research skills and to enable them to make reasoned judgements about religious issues;
- develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues, with reference to the teaching of principle religions represented in Great Britain.

Religious Education helps children to

- develop an awareness; of spiritual and moral issues
- develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other major world religions
- develop what it means to be committed to a religion
- develop an understanding of religious traditions and to appreciate the cultural diversity in Britain;
- be able to reflect on their own experiences and to develop a personal response to the fundamental questions of life;
- have respect for other peoples' views and to celebrate the diversity in society.

Teaching and Learning

Our school curriculum for religious studies meets the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act. The act stipulates that religious education is compulsory for all children but allows parents to withdraw their children from religious education classes if they so wish; although this should only be done once the parents have given written notice to the school governors. The act also allows teachers to refuse to teach religious education, but only after they have given due notice of their intentions to the school governors. At Scott Primary School RE is taught in accordance with The RE Agreed Syllabus, 2018–2023 Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire and Luton.

Areas of learning – The curriculum aims to ensure that all pupils can do the following:

- 1 Make sense of a range of religious and non-religious beliefs
- 2 Understand the impact and significance of religious and non-religious beliefs
- 3 Make connections between religious and non-religious beliefs, concepts, practices and ideas studied

Content

The content of the Agreed Syllabus for R.E is organised in the following way: -

Reception-Children will encounter Christianity and other faiths as part of their growing sense of self, their own community and their place within it.

Time allocated is 36 hours per year.

Key stage 1-

Children are to study Christians. Jews and/or Muslims.;

- Time allocated to RE is 36 hours per year. A weekly lesson of 50 minutes is usual.

In KS2

Children will encounter Christians, Muslims, Hindus and Jews. An additional study of Sikhs is appropriate if the school has Sikh pupils.

- Time allocated to RE is 39 hours per year. A weekly lesson of 60 minutes is usual.

Consideration of other religions and non-religious worldviews can take place as appropriate to the school content.

Skills

Key skills which are developed through the RE curriculum are:

- Ability to explain and communicate ideas
- Creative response to religious themes
- Sensitivity for the beliefs and values of others
- Awareness of spiritual dimensions

The RE planning ensures continuity, progression and an increasing depth of study. RE programmes will seek to develop knowledge and understanding alongside appropriate skills and attitudes e.g. empathy, sensitivity, tolerance, respect, questioning, evaluation and reflection. We employ a variety of stimulating teaching methods including visitors, handling artefacts, celebrating festivals, drama and wherever possible the children will visit a range of places of worship to extend their investigations.

Assessment and recording

In Early Years assessment is mainly by oral response to the topic covered and observation of the pupil's developing skills in empathy and reflection..

In KS1 and KS2 we assess children's work by making informal judgements as we observe them during lessons and on completion of a piece of written work. We use this as a basis for assessing the progress of each child, for setting new goals and for passing on information to the new teacher at the end of the year.

Teachers make half-termly assessments of the children's outcomes in RE on Target Tracker.

Parental reports include reference to progress in R.E.

Equal Opportunities

Scott Primary School is committed to working towards equality of opportunity for all children regardless of age, ability, gender, race and social circumstances. All pupils are of equal value and have the same right to take part in the varied activities and opportunities wherever possible. All opportunities for learning should be offered in a way which allows all children access and the ability to progress at their stage of understanding.

- British Values
 - Whilst not strictly part of the RE curriculum, Scott Primary is committed to upholding and teaching the children about the key British Values – democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those with other faiths and beliefs and for those without faith. This has been reinforced with the children through specific assemblies dealing with each of the values. All classrooms display the value of the month and the key British value for the half term. There is also a display board in the hall and the library which explains each of the values and how they can be shown within the school setting.
 - See British Values Policy
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