

## Religious Education Policy



### Entitlement

RE and the National Curriculum together form the Basic Curriculum which must be taught to every child in maintained schools. Parents may exercise their right to withdraw their child from this subject on the grounds of conscience.

RE should provide a programme that gives consideration to the faith communities in this country, what they practise and why they practise it. It should also provide an opportunity for the children to reflect on their own experience as this develops in the light of what they know about the faith in which they are growing up.

### Aims

1. To dovetail with the school's Mission statement and aims.
2. To nurture the spiritual and moral development of each child.
3. To teach about the Christian faith in accord with the Trust Deeds of the school, and to give knowledge of other faiths.
4. To develop in the children an awareness that other people may have different views and beliefs and to respect their right to them.

### Organisation

The core for our teaching of RE at this Church of England (Aided) Primary school will be based on Christianity, using, wherever possible, our local church community as a starting point.

Our whole curriculum is underpinned by Christian values, key scriptures and big questions, which provide the starting point to our topic work and are referred to throughout the term.

We have chosen two other major world faiths- Judaism and Islam- to study in more depth alongside Christianity. This is to ensure that the children grow up understanding that the religious beliefs of others are to be treated sensitively and with respect. Other faiths to those named may be explored if the opportunity presents itself e.g. through work on Festivals.

To ensure continuity and progression we have allocated themes to be taught and these will be included in our Whole School Plan. The scheme of work shows in more detail the content that will be covered within each class under each theme.

Themes have been carefully selected to provide a range and balance of learning experiences, and to ensure cross-curricular links.

RE will generally be delivered in every class as a whole class activity to the equivalent of a one hour slot per week. This may also be complemented by work on festivals, links through the topic, drama activities and productions.

At present folders containing half termly topics are available to all teachers and have been developed using materials from a variety of resources including the Southwell Diocese Scheme 2000, the RE Scheme of Work previously developed and the QCA Scheme. Planning from the attainment targets is under development to ensure learning links with the new National Curriculum 2014 and the new agreed syllabus (Sept 2015). Suggestions and resource materials are also being included and it is hoped the files will provide a working, developing scheme and resource bank to aid the teaching of RE across the school. Each unit or work contains set learning objectives.

By the time a child leaves school our aim is that they will have been taught:

- ✚ An outline of the Bible with emphasis on 'stories'.
- ✚ An understanding of the Christian year.
- ✚ An appreciation of the Gospel - even if they do not agree with the message proclaimed they should respect others right to that belief.
- ✚ An understanding and knowledge of Christian morality.
- ✚ Knowledge of other faiths.

The children will also have had visits to local churches to look round and become familiar with them. Services will also be held especially to mark special events e.g. end of term, Welcome service and Leavers' service.

### **Equal Opportunities**

The teaching approach will reflect the fact that we live in a multi-cultural society. As teachers we need to endeavour to find materials and resources that reflect this society and the different faiths represented. The particular differences in the roles taken by men and women will be positively addressed.

Equality of access of RE will be ensured by careful differentiation of tasks and content.

### **Special Provision**

Special provision will be made in accordance with our school's Special Needs Policy.

### **Information Technology**

Will be used to enhance the RE work, using the Internet for research activities.

### **Cross Curricular links**

The school's Mission Statement should permeate through all subject areas particularly in RE as we are a church school. RE should not be restricted to the weekly one hour slot.

## **British Values**

Many of the values that make Britain distinctive are historically based on Judaeo-Christian Foundations. Other religions also exhibit many of the positive qualities that mirror and are compatible with values in modern Britain. The RE syllabus includes opportunities to reinforce core values. By studying people's varied beliefs in a constructive way we can reinforce the British Values of: individual liberty, respect for those with different faiths and beliefs, and respect for authority.

## **Building a partnership with parents**

At Linby School we value the contributions of parents in all areas of school life. Staff are always happy to explain the different approaches to RE teaching as children progress through the school.

Opportunities for parental involvement will be a feature of the work if possible, particularly in activities involving visits and contributing to celebrations.

The parent body hold regular parent prayer meetings, providing opportunities for the parents to pray for the life of the school.

## **Assessment and Recording**

Ongoing informal teacher assessment is used to check levels of work given and understanding of the work. This will also inform future teacher planning.

Where appropriate concept mapping will be used at the beginning of a new topic and then assessment at the end of a unit will inform effectiveness of the unit and what is required to aid future learning. Assessment is carried out using the attainment targets and moderation of this work is carried out across the key stages to ensure consistency of the assessment process.

Reviewed Autumn 2015