

# Duncombe Primary School Religious Education Policy

At Duncombe Primary School we believe that RE has an important part to play in promoting the spiritual, moral, social, cultural and intellectual development of our pupils and in helping them to gain a greater understanding of themselves and a more sympathetic awareness of the needs of others. This enables pupils to be better equipped to cope with the responsibilities and experiences of adult life. To promote the ideas of our school vision we believe that education in RE should be a child centred, exciting journey. Children will learn to understand the world and their place in it, know that all members of the school community show respect and tolerance for others and develop a better cultural awareness. Children will have the opportunity to reflect and develop their spiritual awareness through stilling exercises. Thinking skills will be developed through child-led philosophical discussions.

## Legal Requirements

The statutory requirements are to be found in the Education Act (1944) and the Education Reform Act (1988).

- RE must be taught according to a locally agreed syllabus prepared by a specially convened standing conference. At Duncombe Primary School, RE is taught within the Islington agreed syllabus for Religious Education.
- RE must not be denominational but teaching about denominational differences is permitted.
- RE must be provided for all registered pupils, but parents have the right to withdraw their children from RE lessons.
- The Educational Reform Act (1988) states that 'RE must reflect the fact that religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian whilst taking account of the teaching and practices of other principal religions represented in the country'. The Islington Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education meets the above requirements.

## The aims of RE in the school

The school's starting points are the two Attainment Targets in the county agreed syllabus:

1. To develop knowledge and understanding of religion (learning about religion)
2. To explore and respond to human experience (learning from religion)

At Duncombe Primary School we aim to help pupils to:

- acquire and develop their knowledge and understanding of Christianity and the other principal religions represented in Great Britain: Sikhism, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism.
- develop an understanding of the influence of beliefs, values and traditions on individuals, communities, societies and cultures.
- develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues, with reference to the teachings of the principal religions represented in Great Britain.
- develop a positive attitude towards other people, respecting their right to hold beliefs that are different to their own.
- enhance their spiritual, moral, cultural and social development by:
  - developing awareness of the fundamental questions of life raised by human experiences, and of how religious teachings can relate to them
  - responding to such questions with reference to the teachings and practices of religions, and to their own understanding and experience
  - reflecting on their own beliefs, values and experiences in the light of their study

## **Implementing RE**

### ***Time allocation***

The Islington Agreed Syllabus for RE states teaching time requirements as follows:

- Key stage 1 36 hours per year
- Key stage 2 45 hours per year

### ***Cross curricular links***

Links can be made with a range of other curriculum areas perhaps notably English, Drama, Music, History, Geography and assemblies.

### ***Organisation and content***

- The RE curriculum map, learning objectives and schemes of work are kept in each year group's RE planning folder.
- The RE curriculum map provides a yearly overview of how RE is taught in the school. It shows the topics that each year group will deliver across the three terms of the academic year. Each year group can change the order of topics if desired.
- Learning objectives are highlighted, and must be met through the delivery of the RE topic during the term.
- Care is taken to ensure that pupils have the opportunities to develop their understanding, knowledge, skills and concepts as they move through the school.
- Skills such as observing, questioning, discussing, evaluating and reflecting are encouraged in RE, as with many parts of the curriculum. Sensitivity to others and a readiness to listen to others' viewpoints are strongly encouraged.

### ***Equal opportunities***

The school believes that it is important for all children to have access to opportunities for spiritual development and awareness and for understanding of the great religious traditions.

### ***Special Educational Needs***

RE is taught at a level appropriate to the age, ability and experience of the pupils and is therefore accessible to all.

### ***Assessment, recording, reporting and accountability***

The Islington Agreed Syllabus for RE provides targets for the end of each key stage. Evidence is gathered mainly through observation, oral discussion, written tasks, drawing and planning. The recorded evidence assists teachers both in their planning and in their reporting to parents and governors.

### ***The Development of RE***

- Teaching and learning in RE will be monitored by the RE coordinator, in line with the Islington syllabus requirements and government reports/research.
- Resources will be identified and financial provision made for them annually.
- Training will be provided for the RE coordinator and other members of staff as necessary.
- RE will be a focus for review and development in accordance with the agreed five year cycle of curriculum development.

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June 2011