



Westfield Primary School

Religious Education Policy

This policy should be read in conjunction with our school SMSC and British Values policy / statement.

Both staff and pupil wellbeing have been considered in the review of this policy.

Purpose of R.E:

The Department for Education 2010 states that:

'RE is an important curriculum subject. It is important in its own right and also makes a unique contribution to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils and supports wider community cohesion. RE also contributes to pupils' personal development and well-being and to community cohesion by promoting mutual respect and tolerance in a diverse society. It offers opportunities for personal reflection and spiritual development, deepening the understanding of the significance of religion in the lives of others – individually, communally and cross-culturally. Exploring the concepts of religion and belief and their roles in the spiritual, moral and cultural lives of people in a diverse society helps individuals develop moral awareness and social understanding Religion and beliefs inform our values and are reflected in what we say and how we behave. Section 78 (1) of the 2002 Education Act states that all pupils should follow a balanced and broadly based curriculum which 'promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, social, mental and physical development of pupils and of society, and prepares pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.'

INTRODUCTION:

Westfield Primary School aims to provide an R.E curriculum that is based on the recommendations and requirements of the National Curriculum and East Riding of Yorkshire Council Agreed Syllabus for R.E 2016. This is a working document, which reflects the ethos and practice within the school in relation to R.E. We aim to provide a curriculum, which is broadly Christian, yet develops the knowledge and understanding of the beliefs, practices and traditions of other world religions within society.

AIMS:

At Westfield Primary School we aim:

- To develop knowledge and understanding of the beliefs and practices of Christianity and other principle religions: namely Hinduism, Islam and Buddhism.



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- To follow the local Authority Agreed Syllabus statutory Areas of Understanding and Key Content.
- To make Religious Education enjoyable and contribute to social, cultural and moral growth.
- To help each child develop self-esteem and sense of worth.
- To develop in pupils an awareness of the world around them and of their own identity and place within that world; e.g. learning about how people live their lives according to their beliefs whilst developing an understanding of why people act in certain ways.
- To give pupils the opportunity to pose and reflect upon the 'bigger' social and moral questions of life and death.
- To begin with the child's experience, e.g. a celebration or ritual within their own life.
- To reflect, respond and evaluate experiences of life and religion which may contribute to the development of personal beliefs and values.
- To help children understand and develop tolerance and respect other people, their beliefs and cultural differences.
- To offer opportunities and experiences that encourage and develop positive attitudes and help pupils make healthy choices.
- To help each child to explore their emotions, understand their role and responsibility as citizens within society and develop an awareness of human rights (to correspond with a more recent emphasis placed upon teaching British Values and support our SMSC policy.)

Objectives:

At Westfield Primary School the objectives in religious education are to develop pupils':

Investigative Skills:

- Explaining situations
- Looking for meanings
- Raising questions
- Assessing evidence
- Hypothesising
- Classifying
- Observing
- Recording
- Evaluating



Reflective Skills:

- Critical awareness of self and others
- Reflecting on belief
- Considering Evidence
- Developing a sense of awe and wonder

Attitudes:

- Open-mindedness
- Self-awareness
- Respect
- Empathy
- Consideration
- Responsibility
- Curiosity
- Dialogue

Organisation of the Curriculum:

A long term plan is in place based upon the East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Humber SACRE Agreed Syllabus 2016. This provides continuity and progression in the development of knowledge, awareness and respect from EYFS to Year 6.

Allocation of Time:

Pupils receive a minimum of one hour's R.E per week. It is, however, up to the teacher, and the considered needs of the pupils, age and time-tabling, whether the hour is taught as a whole, or in shorter periods, or blocked to provide a concentrated focus.

This is in-line with the LA Agreed Syllabus recommendations of:

Early Years Foundation Stage:

The Early Years section of the LA Agreed Syllabus emphasises that teaching of R.E in EYFS should prepare children for teaching in KS1.



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KS1:

At Key Stage 1, as well as Christianity, Hinduism is to be covered. This is based upon the Local Authority SACRE recommendations for Christianity to take up at least 50% of teaching and learning and one other principle world religion to make up the rest of the curriculum. As part of a staff meeting, teaching staff decided upon Hinduism as their chosen other world faith. This is to provide children with a more in-depth knowledge and understanding.

KS2:

At Key Stage 2 it is appropriate to widen the pupils' experience of religions and therefore it is recommended that as well as the consideration of Christianity, the children will be introduced to Islam and Buddhism.

Teaching Methods:

Religious Education is delivered wherever possible through a cross-curricular approach using a variety of teaching methods. Activities focus upon central beliefs and key practices of traditions relevant to the appropriate religion. Children are given the opportunity to consider personal thoughts, feelings and beliefs.

Resources:

Resources are kept centrally under the care of the R.E co-ordinator. It is the responsibility of each teacher to return resources to the resource room after use.

Inclusion:

All pupils have access to the R.E curriculum, subject to differentiation according to their individual needs and in accordance with the schools S.E.N policy.

Equal Opportunities:

The R.E curriculum will be delivered to all pupils, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, disability or ability, subject to guidance and recommendations set out in the school's Equal Opportunities policy.



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Rights of Withdrawal:

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of religious education.

Teachers also have a right of withdrawal from teaching religious education.

Requests for withdrawal should be made through the Headteacher.

Assessment and Record Keeping:

Evidence of work will be recorded through Short Term Planning, examples of pupils' work, photographs, displays and lesson observations.

Pupils' involvement and progress will be monitored and reported to parents through consultation evenings and annual reports. Guidance is given in each unit of work regarding the focus for assessment of pupils' progress.