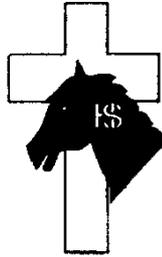


HORSINGTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

RATIONALE

Religious Education enables pupils to understand the nature of beliefs and practices, and the importance of these in the lives of believers. It encourages pupils in their personal search for meaning, purpose and values, and to respect the beliefs and convictions of others.

AIMS

We aim to enable our children to:

- Develop a knowledge and understanding of religious belief and practice.
- Develop a respect for the religious commitment of others.
- Develop a capacity to explore questions of meaning and purpose.

OBJECTIVES

AIM 1: develop a knowledge and understanding of religious belief and practice.

- a. To increase awareness of the central concepts, and historical roots, of Christianity and its place and practice in present day society.
- b. To increase awareness of World faiths and their place in present day society.
- c. To appreciate the value of religious language and symbols.

AIM 2: develop a respect for the religious commitment of others.

- a. To foster in pupils a positive attitude to all areas of human activity.
- b. Through practical experiences to develop an understanding of the lives and beliefs of others.

AIM 3: develop a capacity to explore questions of meaning and purpose.

- a. To provide children with opportunities to reflect on and evaluate their own experiences, and those of others.
- b. To develop a sense of their own value and place in society.

PRINCIPLES OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

BREADTH AND BALANCE: During the Primary phase we aim to provide a broad and balanced curriculum.

Units of Work (Medium Term Plans) are selected to provide a balance of developing skills, knowledge, attitudes and understanding; and to ensure a balance between the implicit and explicit aspects of R.E.

The Religious Education offered is principally Christian. Throughout the school we also look at other World faiths.

VARIETY: It is our intention to provide a variety of approaches and experiences in Religious Education. We will offer activities and tasks which encourage active learning and understanding of key concepts.

The experiential dimension of religion is important. Pupils need to meet people who have a religious commitment, explore places of worship and handle religious artefacts. They need to encounter the practices and customs which underpin a set of beliefs.

Pupils will be helped to discover some of the ways in which human beings have approached and answered questions of meaning and the purpose of existence. Discussion and drama are important tools to promote understanding and tolerance.

CROSS CURRICULAR SKILLS AND THEMES: Teachers may take advantage of cross curricular opportunities to make links with other subject areas or to point out pertinent spiritual and moral points raised within other subjects.

CONTINUITY AND PROGRESSION: The Somerset Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education provides the framework for continuity and progression. Teachers will respect children's natural ways of understanding their world and seeking for meaning. They will appreciate the vital functions of play and fantasy, and will start with the premise that children will have varying levels of awareness of religion in explicit forms.

ASSESSMENT, RECORDING AND REPORTING

Opportunities for Assessment are identified in the Units of Work. These include self-assessment, where appropriate. Statements of Attainment from the Somerset Agreed syllabus are used to make assessments on the child's progression in R.E.

The RE coordinator will collect evidence for the whole school portfolio.

The school 'National Curriculum Record' is used to record levels of attainment.

Progress in RE will be included as part of the written report to parents.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

We have a commitment to examining our attitudes, expectations, and ways of working in order that all pupils may achieve their full potential and use materials which offer a balanced image of gender and race. We aim to provide positive role models of both genders.

RESOURCES

- The library contains books relating to the Bible, Christianity, and other World Religions.
- The school has a range of religious artefacts and is able to access a range of ICT resources.
- We hold resources for loan to local schools on behalf of the Local Authority
- The school is able to use the central resources of the Diocesan Education Department.

RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from Religious Education and should make such a request in writing to the Headteacher as outlined in the School Brochure. .

In the event of a withdrawal it is the responsibility of the Headteacher to ensure that the child is engaged in a worthwhile educational activity in an appropriate setting.

CONCLUSION

This Policy Statement is written in accordance with the Aims of the School, and has been agreed by all members of staff. It forms one part of the Curricular policies of the School and should be considered alongside other relevant policy statements. It will be reviewed at regular intervals.

Adopted	Summer Term 1994
Revised	Spring Term 1996
Re-written	October 2002
Adopted	May 2003
Revised	January 2009
Reviewed	February 2009
Reviewed	May 2013