



## **Religious Education**

Reviewed: May 2018

By: Outcomes for Children and Learners team

Agreed: Governors meeting 15<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Next review date: May 2020

## **Religious Education Policy**

### **Teynham Parochial Church of England Primary School**

#### **Introduction**

As a Voluntary Controlled Church of England school, we follow the Kent Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education, which ensures that children have the opportunity to learn about Christianity, as well as other world faiths.

Children entering Teynham School are enveloped into a friendly and caring environment. We endeavour to offer the children a set of high moral values: both the school rules and classroom rules (which the children help to make) are presented in a positive way. Children are encouraged to start taking responsibility for their actions from the time they enter school and are taught to respect individuals and individuality.

When children leave Teynham School at the age of 11 years, it is hoped that the Religious Education that they have received will give them a strategy for dealing with a variety of situations and problems that they may meet later in life, so that they can respond appropriately to both good and difficult times.

#### **Aims**

Religious Education has a particular contribution to make towards the spiritual, moral, social and cultural education of each pupil. It aims to enable pupils to:

- gain a knowledge and understanding of the beliefs and practices of Christianity and other major world religions, learning about them and from them
- understand how Christianity influences the lives of people worldwide and how it has shaped British culture and heritage
- consider ways in which beliefs, values and traditions might have a significance on their own lives
- make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues
- develop a positive attitude and respect for others who hold a different belief to their own
- develop an appreciation of the natural world and a desire to help care for it

## **Time Allocation**

The Kent Agreed Syllabus requires a minimum 5% curriculum time for Religious Education. At our school this amounts to 30- 45 minutes per week for Reception Class, one hour a week at Key Stage One and 1.25 hours at Key Stage Two. (This is in addition to time for worship.)

## **Programmes of Study**

Religious Education is taught from Reception and is linked to the Foundation Stage curriculum through the Early Learning Goals. Christianity is the main religion taught at this early stage, with special stories from world faiths explored in term 6. They are taught through learning questions e.g. Which Old Testament stories are special and why?

At Key Stage One, RE is predominantly about Christianity, with 2 of the 12 units on Judaism and 2 on Islam.

At Lower Key Stage Two, RE is also predominantly about Christianity, with 2 of the 12 units on Sikhism, 1 on Hinduism and one drawing on knowledge of a range of world faiths and views.

At Upper Key Stage Two, 8 of the 12 units cover Christianity, 2 focus on Islam, 1 on Judaism and 1 drawing on knowledge of a range of world faiths and views.

## **Approaches**

Religious Education will be taught as a discrete subject, but links will be made through our use of the creative curriculum, PSHE and links to collective worship. Christianity units are taught through the 'Understanding Christianity' materials, with lessons using an enquiry based learning approach, investigating key questions. Teachers are encouraged to teach lessons in a creative way to meet the needs of all learners, including through use of drama, art / design technology, music and ICT. Staff are also encouraged to take pupils on appropriate visits and invite visitors into the school where possible. As a school we benefit particularly from our close links to our parish church, St Mary's, Teynham.

## **Equal Opportunities**

All children are treated equally whatever their culture or belief, whether they have special educational needs or are gifted and talented. Religious Education will challenge stereotypes, misinformation and misconceptions about race, gender and religion. It will seek to present religions in all their richness and diversity in terms of beliefs, traditions, customs and lifestyle in a sensitive and accurate way in order to encourage a positive attitude towards diversity.

## **Assessment and Marking**

In Reception, assessment is linked to the Foundation Stage Profile.

In Key Stages One and Two, teachers assess the children, focussing on expectations of the Kent Agreed Syllabus. Focus will be on the three elements 'Making sense of the text', 'Understanding the impact', and 'Making connections'. Children are also encouraged to take part in peer and self assessment on a regular basis.

Work is marked according to the school's marking policy.

Parents are notified of their children's attainment and progress within a written report. These are sent out three times a year.

## **Health and Safety**

Health and safety issues may arise in religious education on a number of occasions, for example when children:

- Handle artefacts
- Consume food, e.g. if tasting some of the food eaten by Jews during the Seder meal
- Visit places of worship

Teachers will follow guidelines within the school Health and Safety Policy in these circumstances.

## **Legal Requirements**

From the time of the 1944 Education Act, parents have had the right to withdraw their children from religious education. The school must comply with any request from a parent to withdraw their child and parents are not required to give their reasons for wanting to do so. However, in view of the Christian ethos and distinctive Christian character of our school, we would hope that all children admitted will participate fully in RE, and that anyone wishing to withdraw their child would discuss this with the headteacher before making this decision.