



Bidbury Infant School Religious Education Policy

Introduction

This document is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for the teaching of Religious Education at Bidbury Infant School.

Bidbury Infant School comprises pupils and staff predominantly of white origin with a small percentage of pupils from other ethnic backgrounds. The school has a good relationship with the local community and is situated near St. Thomas's Church (Church of England). The school works closely with the local rector and the children have opportunities to visit the church at certain times during the year e.g. Easter and Christmas.

Aim and Purpose of Religious Education (RE)

The aim of RE is to foster in pupils a reflective approach to life and enable and enrich this process through their study of living faiths, acknowledging the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, and taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in the country. Through this approach we aim to help children develop understanding, empathy and respect the right of people to hold and practise beliefs different from their own. RE aims to develop the children's skills, concepts and attitudes identified in the Agreed Hampshire Syllabus. RE seeks to promote reflection, empathy, comprehension, investigation, interpretation and analysis. RE also aims to foster attitudes such as curiosity, open-mindedness, self-understanding, respect, wonder and appreciation, as these are fundamental to a fair minded study of religions and spiritual dimensions of human life.

Legal Requirement

The Education Act 1996, School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and Education

Act 2002 require that:

'religious education should be taught to all children and young people other than those in nursery classes and except for those withdrawn at the wish of their parents.

Teachers' rights are safeguarded, should they wish to withdraw from the teaching of religious education'

Local Authority Agreed Syllabus

In accordance with the Education Act (2006), the teaching of RE at Bidbury Infant School follows the LA Agreed Syllabus 'Living Difference' (revised 2016). Copies of this document are situated in the Head teacher's office and with the RE Manager.

Time Allocation

The time allocation for the teaching of RE at Bidbury Infant School is 36 hours per year, as recommended in the Agreed Syllabus 'Living Difference'.

Approaches for teaching Religious Education

RE is taught as a separate subject in accordance with the agreed Hampshire Syllabus 'Living Difference'. Although the main learning focus is Christianity, the children are taught one other key religion which is non-Christian and identified in the Agreed Syllabus. Islam is Bidbury Infant School's chosen religion other than Christianity. The RE topics build on the children's own experiences and progressively develop an understanding of the key concepts, features, beliefs, celebrations and values of all religions. Whilst fostering an appreciation of the significance of faiths and their followers, children learn to appreciate the significance of faiths to their believers.

Strategies for the teaching of Religious Education

The predominant mode of working in RE is whole class teaching, although individual work and co-operative group work are used where appropriate. The teaching and learning methods of RE is planned to employ a wide range of teaching methods including:

- Visits to places of worship
- Exploring Religious artefacts
- Listening to religious stories
- Visits by members of faith communities
- Reflection on religious symbols, sounds and the use of silence
- Using ICT where appropriate
- Art, music, dance, etc.
- Experiential learning through drama

Equal opportunities

The teaching of RE is planned with due regard for the school's policy for Equal Opportunities. Pupils with special needs receive support from the class teacher to undertake work which is planned for their level of ability and which allows them to take an effective and valuable contribution.

Role of the RE Manager

- To take the lead in policy development.
- To ensure progression and continuity in RE through the development of the long term plan.
- To support colleagues with suggested medium term plans which each Year Group then implements as they feel appropriate for their needs.
- To monitor progress in RE and advise the Head teacher on action needed.
- To take responsibility for the purchase and organisation of resources for RE
- To keep up to date with developments in RE and disseminate information to colleagues as appropriate.

Resources

There is a central store of RE resources located in the link corridor. These include religious artefacts, books, posters, and image media are organised according to the religion to which they relate. The RE Manager keeps a file which consists of all the medium term plans together with a collection of information, articles and ideas which will support staff when implementing these. Photocopies of appropriate medium term plans are given to Year Group leaders.

Continuity and progression

RE is planned to ensure continuity and progression. Pupils engage with Christmas and Easter in each year group but focus on different elements within each of these units.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

Assessment opportunities are identified on the medium term plans. Teachers identify a sample of pupils to be assessed for each unit. The progress pupils make in RE is reported annually to parents.

Monitoring

The RE Manager collects evidence of children's work to place in a portfolio, exemplifying standards. Discussions with staff identify where development work is needed and consideration is then given about further resources and INSET that are required to deliver the RE curriculum effectively.

Parental right of withdrawal

In accordance with the Education Reform Act 1988, parents should have the right to withdraw their children from the teaching of RE. In order to avoid misunderstandings, any parent wishing to withdraw their child may arrange a meeting with the Head Teacher in order to discuss:

- The religious issues about which the parent would object to his/her child being taught.
- The practical implications of withdrawal e.g. supervision and alternative activities.
- The circumstances in which the school can reasonably be expected to accommodate parental wishes.
- Any advance notice required of such RE

Teacher's right of withdrawal

In accordance with DFE circular 1/94, the legal right of teachers to withdraw from the teaching of RE is recognised. Any teacher wishing to withdraw must confirm this in writing to the Head teacher and Governors. In event of this right being exercised, the teaching of RE would be implemented by the Year group team/RE Manager after discussion with the Head teacher.

Signed: 

Reviewed March 2020

Next review: March 2023