

# St Andrew's CE (VA) Junior School

## Religious Education Policy



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## ST. ANDREW'S CE (VA) JUNIOR SCHOOL



*"Promoting Excellence Within a Caring Christian Community"*

### Religious Education Policy

#### 1 Our ethos

At St. Andrew's CE (VA) Junior School we work together to develop the potential of each child, incorporating academic, social, spiritual, moral and physical development within a caring Christian environment.

#### 2 Rationale

Religious Education has a special role to play in promoting spiritual development. It enables children to investigate and reflect on some of the most fundamental questions asked by people. Children reflect on what it means to have a faith and to develop their own spiritual knowledge and understanding. At the same time, it is recognised that pupils are growing up in a world of different religions and should explore and learn about the world of faiths in our present day society.

#### 3 Aims

The aims of religious education are to help children:

- develop an awareness of spiritual and moral issues in life experiences;
- develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other major world religions and value systems;
- develop an understanding of what it means to be committed to a religious tradition;
- be able to reflect on their own experiences and to develop a personal response to the fundamental questions of life;
- develop an understanding of religious traditions and to appreciate the cultural differences in Britain today;
- develop investigative and research skills and to enable them to make reasoned judgements about religious issues;
- have respect for other peoples' views and to celebrate the diversity in society;
- develop a sense of awe about the world and an ability to ask fundamental questions about life;
- **understand the Christian values and know that these values relate to biblical standards of ethics and good behaviour.**

## **4 Approaches to the teaching of RE**

The school's scheme of work is based on the local agreed syllabus for Calderdale and Kirklees. The new curriculum has three broad aims; to know about and understand a range of religions and worldviews, to express ideas and insights about questions of belief and meaning and to investigate and respond to important questions for individuals and the wider community.

We use the units of work and bank of resources, which have been developed by the local authority to help us deliver this syllabus. Learning is based on enquiry and builds on the Christianity and Islam that has been taught at the Infant School in Key Stage One and focuses on Christianity, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism in Key Stage Two. Where appropriate, the Humanist perspective will be explored in order to demonstrate to pupils that people who do not have a belief in God, have beliefs, feelings and attitudes that help them to live a good life.

- The school allows sufficient time for the teaching of RE to be taught, which equates to a minimum of one hour per week.
- There are also RE days during the year, which involve the whole school. Visitors from other faiths and cultures are invited in to share their beliefs and opinions.
- Teachers will use a variety of methods and resources including music, art, computing, drama, visits and visitors, artefacts etc. in order to deliver lively, interesting and challenging lessons.
- Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) is an important part of the RE curriculum
- Teachers will be sensitive to the needs of all the pupils in the class, differentiating and providing extra support or challenge as required for more and less able pupils.

## **5 Teaching religious education to children with special needs**

In our school we teach RE to all children, whatever their ability. The teaching of RE is a vital part of our school curriculum policy, which states that we provide a broad and balanced education for all our children. When teaching RE we ensure that we provide learning opportunities matched to the needs of children with learning difficulties. We take into account the targets set for individual children in their Pupil Provision Plans (PPPs).

## **6 Parental right of withdrawal**

We believe that Religious Education is a very important subject in school and expect all pupils to participate in lessons and Collective Worship. However, suitable arrangements will be made for any child whose parents wish to exercise their right of withdrawal under the 1996 Education Act.

## **7 Community**

St. Andrew's CE (VA) Junior School has very strong links with St. Martin's Church. We have Eucharist in school or in church, once a term, for the whole school. We also regularly visit the church for important services or as part of the RE curriculum. Members of St Martin's run an after school club called Christian Crackers in school several times a week. Godly Play, which is linked to the units of work, is carried out weekly for our pupils in year 3. This strengthens the role of the school within the community.

We organise visits to local places of worship and invite representatives of local religious groups to come into school and talk to the children.

## **8 Assessment, Monitoring and Evaluation**

Assessment in Religious Education is based on the end of topic statements that are provided in the local agreed syllabus for Religious Education in Kirklees and Calderdale 2014-19. Children are assessed at working towards, working at and above age related expectations.

For each of the RE units, there are child friendly statements, which provide a framework of Learning Objectives and outcomes. Teachers will keep records of pupils' achievement in each unit, which will inform planning, delivery of lessons and track progress. Pupils are expected to make good progress given their starting points and teachers will aim for pupil attainment to be in line with the end of key stage statements. Teachers will report to parents on individual pupils' achievement relative to the end of topic statements each term.

The RE Coordinator will monitor lessons, carry out learning walks, conduct pupil interviews and audit work in pupils' RE books. Teachers will be involved in the monitoring and evaluation of Religious Education through discussions in meetings.

This policy will be reviewed every two years.

**Head Teacher signed:**

**Chair of Governors signed:**

**Date: September 2017**

**Review: September 2019**