

BURTON BRADSTOCK SCHOOL

Religious Education Policy

Introduction

Religious Education (RE) enables children to investigate and reflect on some of the most fundamental questions asked by people. At Burton Bradstock CE Primary School we develop children's knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other world faiths and we address some of the fundamental questions in life. Children reflect on what it means to have a faith and to develop their own spiritual knowledge and understanding. We help the children learn from religions (exploring and responding to human experiences) as well as about religions (developing knowledge and understanding of a religion).

Aims and Purposes of Religious Education

RE enables children to develop values and attitudes that support our school aims. In particular, children work both independently and with others listening to others' ideas and treating these with respect. They take pride in, and celebrate their achievements and the achievements of others by reviewing their work, experiences and knowledge and recognise the progress made in reaching that result.

As a Church of England school, with strong links with the church, we expect to see Christian attitudes forming the basis of the whole school ethos so that the church, the school and the community all work together. High standards are set for behaviour and the children are introduced to and encouraged to use the Christian values as modelled and taught in the 'Roots and Fruits' Collective Worship scheme.

Religious Education within the School Curriculum

Religious Education is unique in the school curriculum in that it is neither a core subject nor a foundation subject but the 1988 Education Act states that 'Religious Education has equal standing in relation to core subjects of the National Curriculum in that it is compulsory for all registered pupils'.

In Religious Education at Burton Bradstock CE Primary School we aim that pupils will:-

- Develop a knowledge and understanding of Christianity and its impact on our local community, and on our society today
- Develop a knowledge and understanding of some of the other principal religious traditions represented in Great Britain today
- Develop a sense of respect for religious traditions, beliefs and practice
- Grow in their spiritual development

- Develop a sense of awe and wonder and mystery
- Develop skills and attitudes which will support their personal, moral, social and cultural
- Explore some questions of meaning and consider how the world's religions have responded to them
- Think about their own beliefs and values in the light of the beliefs of others, both religious and non-religious, and the values of the school community

Legal Requirements

Our school curriculum for RE meets the requirements of the latest Education Reform Act (ERA). The ERA stipulates that Religious Education is compulsory for all children, including those in Reception who are less than five years old. The ERA allows parents to withdraw their child from RE classes if they so wish, although this should only be done once the parents/carers have given written notice to the school Governors. The ERA states that the RE syllabus should reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are, in the main, Christian and that it should, at the same time, be mindful of the teachings and practices of other major religions. Our school RE curriculum meets all the requirements set out in the Dorset Agreed Syllabus for RE.

Approaches to the teaching of R.E.

In order to make religious education a lively, active subject we employ a variety of teaching methods including art, music, discussion, the development of thinking skills, drama, the use of artefacts, pictures, stories, and the use of periods of stillness and reflection. Additionally, we encourage all children to reflect on their learning from our Collective Worship in their Reflection Diaries.

Where possible we want our pupils to have opportunities to encounter local faith communities through visits to local places of worship or visits from members of local faith communities.

We use the Dorset Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education as a basis for our planning and make use of a variety of sources for ideas and teaching strategies including the Understanding Christianity scheme and the Jan Lever's Discovery RE scheme. The implementation of the study units within these two schemes ensures the continuity and progression of skills, knowledge and understanding across the school.

Planning

Religious Education at the school is delivered in the following ways:

- We use 'Understanding Christianity' (from September 2017) as a basis of our teaching of Christianity
- We use Jan Lever's Discovery RE scheme as a basis for teaching other key religions
- We carry out planning in three phases. The long term plan maps out the religious education topics for each class, the medium term plans give details of each unit of work from the schemes and the short term planning

is devised by the class teachers on a weekly basis taking into account the needs and abilities of the pupils

Assessment and monitoring of R.E.

Teacher assessments are made against the core curriculum content at the end of each unit. Pupils are involved in actively evaluating their work and thinking about possible improvements. Photographs of the work can be taken as record of achievement as well as notes made by the teacher on individual children's development.

Attainment, Progress and Effort are reported annually in the end of year reports to parents/carers.

Roles and Responsibilities

The RE co-ordinator is responsible for the day to day operation of the policy.

The RE co-ordinator will also:

- Purchase, organise and maintain teaching resources so that they are readily available and accessible;
- Monitor planning, teaching and schemes of work to ensure progression and continuity in science throughout the school;
- Provide support for all who teach RE and so improve the quality of RE teaching and learning throughout the school by:
 - Encouraging and assisting in-service training if appropriate;
 - Keeping up-to-date in developments in Religious education by attending courses and feedback sessions organised by the Dioces, LA, Cluster groups, MAT or other colleagues and communicating information to colleagues as appropriate;
 - Providing guidance and support in implementing schemes of work;
- Monitor progress in Religious education learning and advise the Headteacher of action required to develop the subject;
- Encourage ways of involving parents in their children's learning
- Complete the SIAMS Self-Evaluation Toolkit and provide updates to the Governing Body through the Chaplaincy group as required