



Religious Studies (RS) Policy

Intent

The manner in which our curriculum is organised enables all children, including those with additional needs and EHCPs, to fully participate in learning activities. Our Achieve curriculum ensures:

All children are provided with the very best learning experiences.

Classrooms are stimulating and a safe space where children develop their love for learning.

Happiness of all is paramount.

Individual needs are recognised and met; an inclusive curriculum for all.

Early Years expertise is used to meet the unique needs of the children from the ages of 3-7.

Voices of the children are heard and listened to, ensuring that they are at the heart of everything we do and every decision we make.

Each and every child makes the best possible progress, leading to lifelong academic and personal achievement.

We have developed an active approach to learning and teaching which enables us to respond to the needs of our children as they move from Nursery to Reception and then on to Year 1 and 2.

Through Religious Studies (RS) we will help children to develop an understanding of faith, through awareness of world religions and with particular focus to Christianity, Judaism and Islam. The 2020 Agreed Syllabus requires that all children develop understanding of Christianity throughout each year group however in addition to this children will develop an understanding of the principal religions represented in the UK. We help pupils to enhance their spiritual, moral, cultural and social development by understanding their own beliefs and then the beliefs of others. We encourage pupils to discuss their own experiences of culture and religion and reflect upon them in a sensitive manner. Pupils are given opportunities to explore religious artefacts and where possible visit places of worship. Children are also encouraged to identify, value and celebrate similarities and differences within the chosen World Religions.

Implementation

Our approach to all children as individuals, including those with SEN, alongside our accurate and on-going assessment, together with our curriculum organisation (see Curriculum Teaching and Learning and Assessment document) mean that all children, including those with additional needs, can access the curriculum on offer.

As a school, we follow the 'Cornwall Agreed Syllabus 2020.' The syllabus states that RS should take up a minimum of 5% of curriculum time in any one academic year for children from Reception to Year 2. In accordance with the Cornwall Agreed Syllabus 2020 RS should be taught for 36 hours per year. Collective worship is not included in this time allocation.

The teaching of Religious Studies (RS) enables children to 'make sense' of the religions and beliefs studied, 'understand the impact' of these beliefs in people's lives and to 'make connections' in their learning and their wider experience of the world.

In the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) children are given a range of opportunities to consider other cultures and communities. Children are encouraged to make links between the beliefs and values of other cultures and their own. This then gives them a greater insight into their own feelings and beliefs. These opportunities help them achieve Understanding of the World.

Children in Key Stage One have the opportunity to:

- acquire knowledge and understanding of religions in Cornwall in the present day
- acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and the other principal religions represented in Great Britain
- develop an understanding of the influence of beliefs, values and traditions on individuals, communities, societies and cultures
- develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about issues arising from the study of religions
- reflect on their own beliefs, values and experiences as part of their study.

During Religious Studies, where appropriate, children should be given the opportunity to develop and apply knowledge and understanding of the characteristics of Cornwall and its role nationally and internationally. These opportunities should include reference to the cultural, economic, environmental and linguistic life of Cornwall as appropriate to the study being undertaken. Further to these opportunities, children will be able to encounter the rich spiritual and religious heritage of Cornwall.

Children will also encounter religions and worldviews through special books, times, places and objects. They will listen to and talk about stories. They will be introduced to subject specific words and use all of their senses to explore beliefs, practices and forms of expression. They will ask questions and reflect upon their own feelings and experiences. Children will be able to use their imagination and curiosity to develop their appreciation and wonder of the world they love within.

Impact

Children, including those with additional needs and EHCPs, leave us as independent learners. Our knowledge of research relating to one to one support ensures that children do not become reliant upon adult support to complete their learning activities.

Religious Studies (RS) when taught well can provide a safe space to discuss, experience and respond to differing views. It provides a key role in fostering good relationships between different groups within the school and in later adult life. It allows them to develop as a whole-rounded citizen where pupils will be able to encounter the rich spiritual and religious heritage of World Religions. Through this encounter pupils can identify, value and celebrate similarities and differences between the taught World Religions. "Religious education can contribute to mutual understanding in a multi-ethnic state. And while it can be quite straightforward to cover the factual information about the rituals and observances and meeting places of different faiths, there is far more that it can do!" Amanda Spielman (HMCI), speech to policy exchange think tank, July 2018.

Withdrawal from Religious Studies

Religious Studies is part of the curriculum for all schools set out in the 1996 Education Act and in the Schools Standards and Framework Act and must be taught to all pupils, however, parents do have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of RS. This is done in consultation with the Headteacher so that agreement can be reached as to how the withdrawal can be best managed. Appropriate work should be provided by the parents/carers.

Review

This policy will be reviewed as appropriate by staff and governors.

Effective Date

Reviewed June 2021

Next to be reviewed September 2022.