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Signed by: Full Governing Board
Approval committee: Governing Body



Burton CE Primary School **Religious Education Policy**

In devising our R.E policy we considered the composition of our school community and we adhere to the schools mission statement which reflects the Christian ethos that permeates throughout the teaching and learning of the entire curriculum offered to our children.

We are a voluntary controlled primary school with a Christian foundation and, as such, Christianity forms the basis of the teaching in school and how we treat each other.

The aims of Religious Education are to help children:

- Gain knowledge and understanding of Christianity and its impact on our local community, and on our society today;
- Gain an awareness of Christian and humanitarian values:
- Explore other religions and beliefs, encouraging an open mind, tolerance of others and respect for other people's views;
- Develop a sense of awe and wonder and a questioning attitude to the world around them
- to feel valued and appreciated;
- To grow in their spiritual development;
- 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 beliefs of others, both religious and non religious, and the Christian values of the school community.

The nature of Religious Education

Religious Education is concerned with three main areas

1. The spiritual dimension of children's development
2. Religious beliefs, practices and expression
3. Exploration, reflection and evaluation of religious and life experiences

Children learning Religious Education

The two main areas of study are:

Learning about religion.

Religious Education is about developing children's understanding of different religions. Children's understanding begins with themselves and their experiences of religion.

They are given the opportunity to develop this understanding by considering other religions – mainly Christian, Jewish, Islamic and Hindu, their history, beliefs, festivals, places of worship and the way their faiths affect individual lives

Learning from religion

Religious Education gives opportunities to create a learning environment where personal, social and spiritual development is possible

Children learn religious education through a varied approach. They are given opportunities to

- * explore a range of religious artefacts, festivals and stories
- * to experience art, music, videos, drama, visits to places of worship and areas which will enhance feelings of the natural world
- * experience Christianity in our local community through visits to St Luke's and the URC Churches

Teaching Religious Education

At Burton C of E Primary School Religious Education is delivered through thematic and occasionally cross-curricular lessons. It is taught as a discrete subject and children's understanding develops from the initial focus of their individual experiences. It is hoped that the positive skills and attitudes gained will be developed in preparation for adult life.

We deliver RE using the Discovery RE Scheme and Understanding Christianity and:

Adopt an enquiry- based approach as recommended by Ofsted, beginning with the children's own life experience before moving into learning about and from religion.

Provoke challenging questions about the meaning and purpose of life, beliefs, the self, and issues of right and wrong, commitment and belonging. It develops pupils' knowledge and understanding of Christianity, other principal religions, and religious traditions that examine these questions, fostering personal reflection and spiritual development.

Encourage pupils to explore their own beliefs (religious or non-religious), in the light of what they learn, as they examine issues of religious belief and faith and how these impact on personal, institutional and social ethics; and to express their responses.

Enable pupils to build their sense of identity and belonging, which helps them flourish within their communities and as citizens in a diverse society.

Teach pupils to develop respect for others, including people with different faiths and beliefs, and helps to challenge prejudice.

Prompt pupils to consider their responsibilities to themselves and to others, and to explore how they might contribute to their communities and to wider society. It encourages empathy, generosity and compassion.

Develop a sense of awe, wonder and mystery.

In accordance with the structure of the locally agreed syllabus and in consultation with other schools in the Christchurch pyramid we have agreed that

Early Years pupils cover Christianity based units of work but will also explore other faiths through the EYs strand 'Understanding Our World' and relevant topics and stories.

At KS1 pupils study Christianity and Judaism

At lower KS2 pupils build on their knowledge from KS1 and are also introduced to Hinduism and Sikhism

At upper KS2 pupils consolidate their learning on all faiths and also find out about Islam

Right of Withdrawal

Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from Religious Education on religious grounds (The Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998). However, we strongly encourage parents to contact the Headteacher or class teacher to discuss any concerns they may have about Religious Education at school.

Summary

We hope that Religious Education is an exciting and relevant subject for all our children. We regard it as an area of the curriculum which begins with each child's own experiences. We aim to encourage children to value themselves, develop a sense of what it means to have faith, be sensitive to others and to gain an understanding of the importance of religion in today's world.

RMB Reviewed 2019