



Religious Education Policy

Ratified by Governors: November 2017

Review Date: November 2019

Member of Staff responsible: Kelsey Obbæk

It is the intention of this policy to inform staff, parents, governors and all other interested parties of the content, practice and implementation of the Religious Education Curriculum at Bush Hill Park Primary School. Teachers will be expected to complete a lesson overview grid outlining activities for the term and showing where their work will be evidenced – whether it is in the children’s work books or in a class book.

Aims and Objectives for RE

Religious Education (RE) provokes challenging questions about the ultimate meaning and purpose of life; beliefs about God; the self and the nature of reality; issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human. It develops pupils’ knowledge and understanding of different religions; other religious traditions and other world views that offer answers to these challenging questions.

RE offers opportunities for personal reflection and spiritual development. It enhances pupils’ awareness and understanding of religions and beliefs, teachings, practices and forms of expression, as well as of the influence of religion on individuals, families, communities and cultures. RE encourages pupils to learn from different religions, beliefs, values and traditions, while exploring their own beliefs. It challenges pupils to reflect on, consider, analyse, interpret and evaluate issues of truth, belief, faith and ethics and to communicate their responses. RE encourages pupils to develop their sense of identity and belonging. It enables them to flourish individually within their communities and as citizens in a diverse society and global community. RE has an important role in preparing pupils for adult life, employment and lifelong learning. It enables pupils to develop respect for and sensitivity to others, in particular those whose faiths and beliefs are different from their own. It promotes discernment and enables pupils to combat prejudice.

Curriculum Provision

Every class teacher identifies RE on their timetable and it is taught on a half termly basis. We use the Discovery RE scheme of work, which is an enquiry based approach with a big question that the children investigate in each unit. As part of the RE Curriculum we visit different places of worship and encompass different religious leaders of education to visit and speak to the children. In the half terms before Christmas and Easter every year group explores questions around the nativity story and the Easter story.

Foundation Stage

The Foundation Stage curriculum is divided into six areas of learning. Our Foundation Stage planning maps how children in Reception are introduced to appropriate content and concepts (from the Agreed Syllabus) through these six areas of learning. For example, developing children’s ‘knowledge and understanding of the world’, will include marking a range of religious festivals and special times; stories shared with children will include those from faith traditions; artefacts introduced in the ‘home corner’ might include those which are ‘special’ to children growing up in religious homes.

The practicalities of RE at Bush Hill Park School

As part of the statutory requirements, Religious Education is an entitlement of the basic curriculum (RE plus the national curriculum) for all school pupils, from 5 to 18 years, unless withdrawn by their parents. Non-denominational, community schools are required to deliver RE according to the local Agreed Syllabus. Our scheme of work has been mapped to the Enfield syllabus and in some year groups is supported by the planning offered by the SACRE.

The Enfield Agreed Syllabus requires pupils at Key Stage 1 and 2 to learn about Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Buddhism and Sikhism.

RE Planning

We follow the Discovery RE Scheme of Work which has been arranged to fully deliver the requirements of the Enfield Agreed Syllabus.

The Religious Education curriculum for Key Stage 1 and 2 is based on two attainment targets:

AT 1: Learning about religions

AT 2: Learning from religion

This approach ensures that pupils have planned opportunities to reflect upon their own beliefs and values – whether those are religious or not – and to begin to explore some of those ultimate questions about the nature of life and human experience, in the light of what they have learnt about religious beliefs.

At Bush Hill Park School we believe that Religious Education should be an inclusive experience, open and relevant to all children, whether from a religious or secular background. It helps to promote the self-esteem of pupils from faith and minority ethnic groups. We also believe that religious education should play a key role in challenging prejudice, for example stereotyping and racism. Teachers actively plan to promote positive images of the language, colour, beliefs and cultures of women and men in the wider community.

Resources

RE resources are kept in the resources room. In general, they are stored in boxes by religion. Teachers are encouraged to use them as and when they wish. However, they are expected to be returned after use.

Assessment and Record Keeping

Pupils' progress is assessed by teachers through a variety of means including questioning, observations, discussions with children, evaluation and assessment of written work. Work is marked in relation to the learning objective.

Monitoring and Review

It is the responsibility of the subject leader to monitor the accuracy of teacher's assessment and the attainment and quality of teaching in RE across the school. The RE subject leader monitors planning; carries out pupil work scrutinies and maintains a portfolio of work samples of different levels. The subject leader is responsible for supporting colleagues in their teaching; for informing

staff about current developments in the subject and for providing a strategic lead and direction for RE in the school. The subject leader reports to the headship team and the governors regarding the overview of RE at Bush Hill Park school.

Parental Rights and RE

Parents have a legal right to withdraw their child from Religious Education lessons. However, it is intended that the RE curriculum provided at Bush Hill Park School is inclusive and respectful of the integrity of all pupils and staff. Where parents express a concern about their child participating in RE lessons, we request that they meet with the Head teacher/Deputy and the RE leader, in order to establish a shared understanding of the statutory requirements, the school's scheme of work and our approach to teaching and learning in RE.