



R.E. Policy

Rationale

Religious education can provide a rich and wide range of experiences inside and outside the classroom which give children opportunities to develop concepts and skills that will help them to make sense of their own experiences and beliefs and to understand the beliefs and practices of members of faith communities.

“Indoctrination and conversion are not part of the educational process and therefore have no place in religious education. Religious education is an educational subject in its own right, taught within an education framework.”

(Diocesan Guidelines 2000)

Approaches to the teaching of RE

A new RE syllabus has been published, effective as of autumn 2014, as the statutory curriculum for RE in 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.

In order to deliver the new syllabus Heptonstall School uses the units of work and bank of resources which have been developed by the local authority. Learning is based on enquiry and focusses on Christianity and Islam in Key Stage One and Christianity, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism in Key Stage Two.

These resources intend to make religious education a lively, active subject and employ a variety of teaching methods including art, music, discussions, the development of thinking skills, drama, the use of artefacts, pictures, stories and the use of periods of stillness and reflection.

Assessment and monitoring of RE

The class teacher will assess each child at the end of each unit, however, statutory reporting to parents is required at the end of Year two and Year six based on whether the child is working above, below or at the expected level.

Worship

A whole school collective act of worship takes place daily in our assemblies.

The Friday Assembly, led by the Head Teacher, is the Award Assembly which celebrates good work and behaviour across the school. One other assembly is a

singing assembly and staff on a rota basis take the remaining assemblies. These take the form of a planned programme of themes that reflect the areas covered in the class RE lessons.

The School in the Community

Parents and other interested visitors are invited to participate in our Assemblies.

At Heptonstall School we aim to develop in the children a concern and charity towards others in the community. As part of our development strategies we involve the children in charity fundraising events throughout the year, such as our Harvest Festival, Comic relief and Children In Need activities. These will now also have close connections with the Citizenship/PSHME scheme of work.

It is hoped that through these and other activities children become aware of the needs of others both near and far and develop sensitivity, generosity and a sense of responsibility towards others.

The Right of Withdrawal from RE

At Heptonstall School we wish to be an inclusive community but recognise that parents, of course, have the legal right to withdraw their children from religious education on the grounds of conscience. We would ask any parent considering this to contact the Head Teacher to discuss any concerns or anxieties they may have about the policy, provision and practice of religious education of Heptonstall School.

RE is taught by half termly whole school RE days

Review

This policy will be reviewed every three years.

