

# **Hedon Primary School**

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION Policy**

**Approved by committee 26<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

**Approved by full governors 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2016,**

**Reviewed July 2018, 24<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

### **Legal requirements**

Hedon Primary School, in accordance with the 1988 Education Reform Act, provides Religious Education for all pupils registered at the school. Religious Education is part of the basic curriculum but not part of the National Curriculum because it is taught in accordance with a local agreed syllabus (in our case, the 2016 SACRE Agreed Syllabus). This agreed syllabus is the result of a collaborative partnership between the Standing Advisory Councils for Religious Education (SACREs) of the four local authorities that comprise the Humberside region.

Religious Education has the same status and importance as any other subject and the high standards are applied to Religious Education as to all subjects. We teach Religious Education according to the aims of the SACRE Agreed Syllabus and it is clearly stated that the Religious Education should not attempt to alter a child's belief but to provide knowledge of their own and other's beliefs.

The key document in determining the teaching of RE is the locally agreed syllabus.

### **The Responsibilities of the Governors and the Headteacher**

The Governing Body and the Headteacher must:

- ensure that RE is provided as part of the school's Basic Curriculum, following the locally agreed syllabus
- ensure that the RE curriculum is made available on the school's website alongside other curriculum subjects
- have an accessible route through which parents and others can request information about RE
- provide an annual report to parents or carers giving brief particulars of progress and achievements in all subjects including RE
- provide sufficient time for the school to fulfil the requirements of the locally agreed syllabus

### **Time allocation**

A minimum of 5% of curriculum time is required for teaching Religious Education.

**KS1:** 50 minutes a week

**KS2:** 60 minutes a week

### **Aims**

Our aims are that through Religious Education, we will be helping children to:

- acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other principal religions represented in Great Britain
- to develop an understanding of the influence of beliefs, values and traditions on individuals, communities, societies and cultures
- to develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgments about religious and moral issues, with reference to the teaching of principal religions represented in Great Britain
- to enhance their spiritual, moral, cultural and social development by:
  - developing awareness of the fundamental questions of life raised by human experience, and how religious teaching can relate to them
  - responding to such questions with reference to the teachings and practices of religions and their understanding and experience
  - reflecting on their own beliefs, values and experiences in light of their study
- to develop respect for other people's right to hold different beliefs
- to develop a positive attitude towards living in a society of diverse religions.

The principal aim for RE at Hedon Primary School is

*“To support pupils’ personal quest for meaning by engaging enquiry into the question ‘What is it to be human?’ and exploring answers offered by religion and beliefs.”*

### **Learning Outcomes**

The Religious Education curriculum is taught through two learning outcomes:

- AT1 Knowledge and Understanding or Learning about Religion
- AT2 Reflection and Response or Learning from religion

### **Areas of Understanding**

There are 3 areas of understanding, which are the same for both key stages:

- Beliefs and practices
- Identity and Values
- Meaning and Purpose

Each key stage builds on the one before, ensuring pupils have an opportunity to receive a broad and inclusive religious education.

The Religious Education curriculum will provide opportunities for the children to develop the following skills:

- **Investigation**
- **Empathy**
- **Synthesis**
- **Interpretation**
- **Evaluation**
- **Application**
- **Reflection**
- **Analysis**
- **Expression**

Religious Education also helps children to develop positive attitudes towards self, others, society and the world.

### **Content and approach**

In line with the legal requirements and the SACRE Agreed Syllabus, children are taught 50% Christianity.

### **Foundation Stage**

Foundation stage must have the opportunities to learn about Christianity and other religions represented in the class. If no other principal religion is represented, then at least one other religion should be explored: Judaism. They celebrate a range of different festivals throughout the year and build on topic work as appropriate.

### **Key Stage One**

In KS1 two other principal religions which are represented in the school community should be explored.

### **Key Stage Two**

In KS2 two other principal religions which are represented in the local area of Hull and East Riding of Yorkshire should be explored. If no other principal religion is represented, then at least two other religions should be explored: Islam and Sikhism.

Each key stage has its own specified statutory content for each faith. The key content specified in the SACRE Agreed Syllabus is progressive and cumulative.

### **Scheme of work outline**

All classes follow the SACRE Agreed Syllabus. Each year group has a different topic per term; so three different aspects of religious education are studied throughout the year.

### **Methodology**

Within our school, Religious Education is usually taught by the RE Co-ordinator or by individual class teachers and takes place mainly within the classroom. A variety of teaching methods are employed as appropriate to help stimulate children's learning. Through Religious Education, children engage in active learning through discussion- either in whole classes or in groups, through role play and creative work. Through employing a variety of teaching methods, pupils are challenged and guided in learning from and about different religions.

### **Resources**

We are continually developing our resources for Religious Education, which range from DVDs, online resources, posters, CDs, books and a variety of artefacts suitable for all religions. The school also has membership of the National Subject Teacher Association for RE. These materials are aimed to support the scheme of work and to enhance the children's learning. Book resources are stored in the Library or in the Middle Office. Teachers are also encouraged to arrange visits to places of worship, to organise RE-based activities and to invite visitors from other religions or cultures into school.

### **Assessment, recording and reporting**

The assessment in Religious Education is ongoing throughout the year. The assessment may include: observation of children's work; questioning of pupils; written and pictorial work. Children are assessed in AT 1 (learning about religions) and AT 2 (learning from religions). Assessments are recorded by the teacher using an assessment profile chart, based on the outcomes for both KS1 and KS2.

The RE subject leader conducts drop-ins, looks at planning and undertakes book scrutinies in order to monitor both coverage of and progress in RE throughout the school. A report on their child's progress in RE is given to parents in the Summer term of the school year.

### **Special Educational Needs**

We believe all children should have access to a broad and balanced curriculum which includes Religious Education, and to make the best progress possible. We provide learning opportunities that are matched to the needs of the children. Further details are contained in the school's Special Educational Needs Policy.

### **Equal Opportunities**

At Hedon Primary School, we value the opinion, beliefs and practice of all. It is the responsibility of all teachers to ensure that all children- irrespective of gender, ability, (including gifted children), ethnicity and social circumstances, have access to the curriculum and to make the best progress possible. Religious Education provides opportunities to raise awareness and to value cultural and ethnic diversity. Further details are included in the school's Equal Opportunity Policy.

### **Race Equality Statement**

Religious Education provides opportunities to explore and extend pupils' awareness of living in, and belonging to, a multicultural society. It enables pupils to develop their own sense of identity and knowledge, understanding and sensitivity to the needs and contributions of all citizens.

### **Withdrawal from Religious Education**

Parents may withdraw their children from Religious Education provided they give written notification to the school, in accordance with Schedule 19 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

Teachers can exercise their right to withdraw from teaching the subject. However, we hope that all parents and teachers would feel comfortable with the type of Religious Education being taught at our school.