



Religious Education Policy

Member of staff responsible: Kelszy Obbæk
Ratified by Governors: May 2020
Next review date: May 2022
Review cycle: Two years

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.

Aims

Religious Education is an important element in the broad and balanced curriculum we aim to provide at Bush Hill Park Primary School. Through our RE curriculum we provide opportunities to develop children's knowledge and understanding of world religions and to reflect on the challenging questions that it provokes.

The aims of religious education are:

- To develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of all religions and consider how the beliefs of others impact on their lives and the lives of others. We encourage children to learn from different religions, beliefs, values and traditions, while exploring their own beliefs. RE challenges pupils to reflect on, consider, analyse, interpret and evaluate issues of truth, belief, faith and ethics and to communicate their responses.
- To encourage children to ask and reflect on 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.
- To provide opportunities for personal reflection and spiritual development where children can explore their own beliefs (not necessarily religious). 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.
- To encourage children to appreciate and respect the different cultures in today's society
- 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

At Bush Hill Park Primary School, we use the Discovery RE scheme of work, which is an enquiry-based approach with a big question that the children investigate as part of each unit. As part of the RE Curriculum, we visit different places of worship and invite different religious leaders

of education to visit and speak to the children. We plan a minimum of one visit to a place of worship per year group with the intention that over the course of their time in our school, each child will have experienced a place of worship from all key religions taught. In the half terms before Christmas and Easter, every year group explores questions around the nativity story and the Easter story.

The long and medium term plans ensure that there is progression throughout the school and that children are building upon knowledge learnt in previous years. The topics are designed so that pupils develop knowledge and understanding of the principal religions in Great Britain and Christianity is taught as a core religion in both key stages.

Our RE curriculum allows children to see the similarities within the major religions and to make connections. Each year group will use festivals in a variety of religions. We recognise that within classes, there is a wide variety of abilities and so we provide suitable learning opportunities that are matched to the needs of all children. This is done through providing support, differentiating activities and using a range of teaching and learning styles within lessons.

The three elements of RE are indicated as follows:

- Knowledge and Understanding of Religion
 - Critical Thinking
 - Personal Reflection
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- Children in Key Stage 1 are able to identify some beliefs and features of religion.
 - Pupils in Lower Key Stage 2 can describe some of the beliefs and features of religion and begin to demonstrate understanding.
 - Pupils in Upper Key Stage 2 will demonstrate understanding of some of the beliefs and features of religion through the RE concepts.

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 support by the planning offered by the SACRE.

RE Planning

We follow the Discovery RE Scheme of Work which has been arranged to fully deliver the requirements of the Enfield Agreed Syllabus. See the long term RE planning on our website for full details

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 Primary 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 our fast feedback marking policy and children are given the opportunity to develop their understanding further through discussion with their teacher.

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 evaluations and maintains a portfolio of work samples of different levels to be used for moderation purposes. 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 Assistant Head for Curriculum and the governors regarding the overview of RE at Bush Hill Park Primary 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 Primary 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 Assistant Headteacher and the RE Subject 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.