

## Bakewell Methodist Junior School Policy for Religious Education



Through our understanding of the Christian Faith, we recognise our responsibility to encourage all children to **live life in all its fullness** (John 10:10)

### **We believe that our children should:-**

- Live healthy lives
- Be resilient
- Be accepting of others and celebrate difference,
- Be confident
- Have self-belief
- Have problem-solving skills
- Be able to work collaboratively with others
- Have a range of interests
- Be aspirational
- Be aware of their impact on the environment
- Be independent

### **Aims and Objectives**

- To promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society.
- Prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.
- To enable pupils to reflect on a wide range of issues.
- To identify and give value to shared human experience.
- To learn from the skills of relating to others where insights and experiences are often different to their own.
- To reflect on what might be learnt from religions in evaluating personal beliefs and life experiences.
- To examine and reflect on spirituality and meanings in different religions.
- To examine the influences of culture, migration and ethnic groupings on producing contemporary faith communities.
- To explain similarities and differences between and within religions.
- To enable pupils to visit a variety of faith centres and experience the lifestyle of other cultures.

Religious education does not seek to urge religious belief on children, or to compromise the integrity of their own beliefs by promoting one religion over another.

### **Rationale**

The Principal aim of RE in Derbyshire schools is to enable pupils to participate in an on-going search for wisdom, through exploring questions raised by human experience and answers offered by the religions and beliefs of the people of Derbyshire and the wider community, so as to promote their personal development.

### **Legal requirement**

In teaching R.E. the school recognises the right of parents to withdraw their child from RE under the guidelines laid down in the 1988 Education Reform Act. It is a legal requirement that RE should be taught according to the LEA Agreed Syllabus. The school recognises that the RE syllabus should

reflect the fact that the religious traditions of Great Britain are, in the main, Christian, whilst taking into account the teaching practices of the other principle religions represented in Great Britain. Bakewell Methodist Junior School will follow The Derbyshire Agreed Syllabus (2014-2019) which fulfils the legal requirements of R.E., and has its roots in the Non-statutory National Framework (2004).

## **Curriculum Content**

The children will be taught from plans that are based on the Derbyshire LEA Agreed Syllabus for R.E. Working from the syllabus will give the children opportunities to encounter people of different beliefs and lifestyles, RE also has a key role to play in fostering respect and social cohesion. As well as being “religiously educated”, RE helps pupils to become “skilled cultural navigators”, able to handle the differences of faith and belief around them, as well as establish their own sense of identity and belonging. The children will acquire knowledge and understanding of Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Buddhism and Sikhism during their four years at Bakewell Junior School.

Coverage is ensured by following the Derbyshire Agreed Syllabus. Lesson content for most units can be found in corresponding units on the Plan Bee website. Units of work not found on the Plan Bee site will be planned by class teachers using the objectives and lesson suggestions found in the Derbyshire Agreed Syllabus.

## **Organisation**

Pupils will be taught in mixed ability classes. They will follow an annual cycle of study (curriculum overview on website).

## **Teaching Strategies**

A variety of teaching methods will be used including whole class teaching, teacher or child-led investigations, drama, role play, individual research, visits to faith centres and talks from members of different faith communities. Opportunities will be created for the children to develop their spirituality and quiet times for reflection will be planned for.

## **Cross Curricular Links**

Reading and writing skills are an essential element of finding out about and communicating an understanding of R.E. Discussions, drama and role play are important ways for children to develop their understanding of different people’s perceptions of the world. The skills that children develop in English underpin development across the curriculum. The children’s skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening enable them to communicate and express themselves in all areas of their work at school.

The patterns and shapes in some religions have a link with mathematics.

Implicit R.E. had a strong link with P.S.H.E., R.S.E and Citizenship.

There are also links with ICT, Art, History, Geography and Science.

## **Assessment**

The Derbyshire Agreed Syllabus sets the standards expected for pupils’ work in religious education in the

County’s schools. These standards are in line with national non-statutory guidance (QCA 2004).

It does this by:

- a) Identifying two attainment targets: AT1 Learning about religions and beliefs, and AT2 Learning from religion and belief
- b) Identifying the knowledge, skills and understanding expected in each key stage.

c) Providing level descriptions to describe the types and range of performance that pupils working at each level should characteristically demonstrate.

The level descriptions for both AT1 and AT2 (see attached) help teachers to create realistic learning objectives (or 'I can' statements) to help them to integrate assessment for learning within teaching, so that there is no need to do a separate end of term/ year assessment.

Assessment will take the form of classroom observation, the marking of written work, questioning and discussion with the children.

An assessment sheet, indicating the overall performance and attainment of pupils will be completed by class teachers and returned to the R.E. Co-ordinator. The annual report to parents will contain a statement of each pupil's achievement based on expectations in the Derbyshire Agreed Syllabus.

### **Links to ICT**

Pupils will be given opportunities to develop their skills in ICT by accessing the internet to find a range of information sources to enhance their knowledge and understanding of religious beliefs. Word processing and publishing skills, videos and online information sources will also contribute to their learning.

### **Inclusion**

Teachers will provide opportunities for all pupils to achieve irrespective of particular learning needs such as pupils with any SEN, pupils from smaller religious communities, gifted and talented pupils, those from the full range of ethnic groups and both boys and girls. Pupils with statements of SEN will be taught the Agreed Syllabus as far as is practical.