

# Birchwood Junior School RE Policy.



<b>Approved by:</b>	Brian Main (Chair of Governors) Tracey Bowman (Executive Headteacher)	<b>Date:</b> January 2019
---------------------	--	---------------------------

<b>Last reviewed on:</b>	January 2019
--------------------------	--------------

<b>Next review due by:</b>	September 2023
----------------------------	----------------

## **Aims**

Religious Education is an important element in the broad and balanced curriculum we aim to provide at Birchwood Junior School. Through our RE curriculum we provide opportunities to develop children's knowledge and understanding of world religions and reflect on the challenging questions that it provokes. The aims of religious education are:

- To develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other religions and consider how the beliefs of others impact on their lives and the lives of others.
- To encourage children to ask and reflect on challenging questions.
- To provide opportunities for personal reflection where children can explore their own beliefs (not necessarily religious).
- To encourage children to appreciate and respect the different cultures in today's society.

## **Legal requirements**

The RE curriculum forms an important part of our school's spiritual, moral and social teaching. Our school RE curriculum is based on the Lincolnshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2018-2022 and it meets all the requirements set out in that document. The Education Act 1996 states that an Agreed Syllabus must reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, whilst taking account of the teachings and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain. It must be nondenominational and must not be designed to convert pupils to a particular religion.

## **Right of Withdrawal**

Parents/Carers may withdraw their children from all or part of the RE curriculum. They do not have to provide a reason for this and our school must comply with the request. It has a responsibility to supervise any pupils who are withdrawn from RE but is not required to provide additional teaching or incur extra costs. If parents/carers wish their child to receive an alternative programme of RE it is their responsibility to arrange this. This could be provided at the school in question or another local school. The pupil may receive external RE teaching provided that this does not significantly impact on his/her attendance.

## **Curriculum time for RE**

It is up to the class teacher to decide how they plan their RE curriculum and there are many models in place, e.g. weekly sessions, blocked time, RE days/weeks. In the agreed School Standards and Framework Act, 1998 and the Education Act 2002, it is recommended that

approximately two thirds of time (over a year) is spent on the compulsory units and the remainder of the time on additional units.

The recommended minimum time is set out in the Dearing Review (1996):

- KS1: 36 hours per year
- KS2: 45 hours per year
- KS3: 45 hours per year
- KS4: 5% of curriculum time or 70 hours across the key stage

## **Planning**

At Birchwood Junior School we plan our RE based on the Lincolnshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2018-2022. The long term plan ensures 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 throughout the school. Our RE curriculum allows children to see the similarities within the major religions and make connections. 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. Where possible, teaching will be supplemented with trips to places of worship or visits from people from religious communities.

The compulsory key areas of enquiry at Birchwood Junior are:

- Year 3 - God: What do people believe about God?
- Year 4 - Being human: How does faith and belief affect the way people live their lives?
- Year 5 - Community, worship and celebration: How do people express their religion and beliefs?
- Year 6 - Life journey: rites of passage: How do people mark important events in life?

All compulsory key areas of enquiry will also have a focus on enquiry into 'big questions' asked by religions/belief systems, e.g. 'Who am I?', 'what is a good life?', 'does God exist?', 'is there life after death?' etc.

The additional units of enquiry at Birchwood Junior School are:

- Year 3 – Forgiveness: At least two religions; at least one must be a religion/belief system other than Christianity, Hinduism and Islam. Religious/non-religious beliefs about forgiveness; examples of religious festivals/practices/stories that focus on saying sorry and asking for forgiveness, e.g. Yom Kippur, Diwali, Easter.

- Year 4 – Pilgrimage: At least two religions; at least one must be a religion/belief system other than Christianity, Hinduism and Islam. Enquiry into journeys carried out by religious people – motivations for the journey, key destinations, practices associated with the journey, key beliefs expressed by the journey, etc.; opportunity to include local places of pilgrimage.
- Year 5 - Spirituality and New Religious Movements: At least two examples of spirituality/New Religious Movements Exploring what is meant by the term 'spirituality' and how this relates to religion as a formal system of beliefs and practices; exploring examples of New Religious Movements and considering reasons for their rise in popularity in the twenty-first century; opportunities to compare and contrast with other religions studied at KS2.
- Year 6 - Expressing belief through the arts: At least two religions; at least one must be a religion/belief system other than Christianity, Hinduism and Islam. Exploring diverse ways in which religious and non-religious people express their beliefs through the arts; could include local case studies.

### **Assessment and Recording**

The standard of work in RE is expected to reflect the targets of children in the core subjects. Displays of children's work in RE are also encouraged throughout the school. We assess children's work in religious education by making informal judgements as we observe them during lessons. We mark a piece of work once it has been completed and we comment as necessary. Teacher use the outcomes of each lesson to inform future planning and note any areas of particular interest shown. On completion of a unit of work, we make a summary judgement about the work of each pupil in relation to the expectations of the unit.

### **Resources**

We have a wide range of resources to support teaching of RE based on the Lincolnshire Agreed Syllabus. There is a budget available for other resources to be hired, where necessary, and for the funding of relevant trips such as visiting a place of worship.