The Woodland Federation
of Peak District Schools

Policy for Religious Education

Approved by Governors Date __________
Reviewed by Governors Date __________
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Policy for Religious Education

Aims

Religious Education should enable pupils to:

- Acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and the other principal religions practised in the United Kingdom;
- Develop an understanding of the influence of beliefs, values and traditions on individuals, communities, societies and cultures;
- Develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues, with reference to the teaching of the principle religions represented in the United Kingdom;
- Enhance their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development by:
  a) Developing awareness of the fundamental questions of life raised by human experiences, and of how religious teachings can relate to them;
  b) Responding to such questions with reference to the teachings and practices of religions and other belief systems, relating them to their own understanding and experience;
  c) Reflecting on their own beliefs, values and experiences in the light of their study;
  d) Develop positive attitudes of respect towards other people who hold views different from their own, and towards living in a society of diverse religions.

Objectives

Long term Planning

At The Woodland Federation our Religious Education is based on the Derbyshire Agreed Syllabus, 2014-19. It is the legal basis for R.E. in Derbyshire. We ensure that the topics studied in Religious Education (RE) build upon prior learning. We offer opportunities for children of all abilities to develop their skills and knowledge in each unit, and we ensure that the planned progression built into the scheme of work offers the children an increasing challenge as they move through the school. We follow a four year bespoke rolling programme and we focus on a question-based approach to learning.

Medium Term Planning

Please see rolling programme.

Units are taught in weekly modules, one every half term, allowing the children to really drill down and focus on the topic and questions they are covering. All pupils will have full access to the R.E. curriculum and work will be differentiated according to individual needs.

The planning and teaching of R.E. will be monitored by the R.E. Coordinator.
Curriculum Content

The Derbyshire Agreed RE Syllabus provides for continuity and progression throughout the Schools.

All R.E. resources are stored in classrooms and include a range of artefacts, videos, books and posters. Each class also has their own bible in the classroom. In addition, visits to local places of worship, including King Charles the Martyr Church, Peak Forest and St. Barnabas Church, Bradwell are made to support the teaching of RE.

We use ICT where appropriate in religious education. The children find, select and analyse information, using the internet. They also use ICT to review, modify and evaluate their work and to improve its presentation.

RE includes writing, creative and practical activities and discussion. We benefit from our close ties with the Parish Church for RE visits and visitors to the lessons.

Home School Partnership

The Schools have a good relationship with the local community and encourage a strong partnership with parents.

Children’s progress is shared with parents at Consultation Meetings and also in the Annual Report. Parents are welcome in school to discuss any important issues either informally or by appointment.

Parents are invited to participate in religious celebrations with us at King Charles the Martyr Church, Peak Forest or the Old Chapel (Unitarian), Great Hucklow.

Equal Opportunities

As part of the caring philosophy of our schools we offer equal opportunities for spiritual and moral development to all children.

Conclusion

The study of R.E. is not simply a process of attaining knowledge about religions, it is a questioning process which engages the children in exploring the fundamental questions of life and how these questions can be answered. There is no assumption of individual religious belief made on the part of the teacher or the pupil. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from parts of, or all of R.E. lessons, by arrangement with the Headteacher.

Agreed: 5.07.18  Reviewed:  Review:  Spring 2022