

Hook-with-Warsash Church of England Academy

Religious Education Policy

Signed:

Religious Education Co-ordinator _____

Headteacher _____



Reviewed: March 2022

Date to be Reviewed: March 2023

“Let Your Light Shine”

To provide an inspirational environment based on Christian values where individuals can excel and flourish academically, socially and emotionally, preparing them for life’s journey.

Hook with Warsash C of E Academy

Religious Education Policy

At Hook with Warsash CE Academy we aim to provide a rich and varied religious education curriculum which enables learners to come to understand, and begin to make links between, the beliefs, practices and value systems of the range of faiths studied. As a Church of England School, knowledge and understanding of Christianity will always remain central to the ethos and teachings of the school, with Religious Education contributing significantly to the school's Christian character. As an inclusive community, we will encourage learning about and learning from other religions- fostering respect for other religions and world views.

The current RE leader is **Samantha Parkes**.

The Governor with responsibility for RE is **Rev Mike Terry**

Aims for Religious Education:

To develop a knowledge and understanding of religion, to include:

- Enabling pupils to encounter Christianity as a 'living religion' that has shaped British values, culture and heritage and influences the lives of millions of people today
- Enabling pupils to learn about other major religions
- Interpreting and responding to a variety of concepts, beliefs and practices within religions- as well as to their own and others cultural and life experiences
- An awareness of the importance of beliefs and faiths of individuals
- Recognising that an individual's faith affects their lives and behaviour
- Exploring key religious stories and becoming familiar with each religion's 'special books'
- Familiarity with practice, language and symbols of faith
- Exploring places of worship and their worshipping communities
- Enjoying Religious Education and being enabled to speak about religious ideas and faith

To develop pupil's spiritual, moral, social and emotional growth, to include:

- Encouraging the search for meaning and purpose in life promoting self-esteem
- Developing empathic skills to enable a greater understanding of self and others
- Exploring religious questions, as well as social, moral, spiritual and cultural questions that will surface again and again in their lives.
- Opportunities to explore what our L.I.G.H.T values mean to them in their own lives, as well as how these apply to people of different faiths in the wider world.
- Developing the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues
- Building understanding of our constantly changing world; giving insights into and reflecting upon the diverse beliefs and opinions held by the people today. Developing attitudes of respect and sensitivity for others' beliefs.
- Developing an understanding of the influence of beliefs, values and traditions in a range of faiths, societies and cultures
- Providing learning opportunities which will encourage spiritual development, e.g. stillness, wonder, action, charities
- Developing a caring attitude towards all mankind, creation and the environment; appreciating natural beauty

Principles of teaching and learning:

RE is taught in line with the Hampshire Agreed Syllabus (Living Difference IV), with due regard to the Church of England Statement of Entitlement for Religious Education and our school values. RE is taught in blocked units each half term. Each unit of work is 'concept' led, making reference to children's own experiences and thoughts. Christianity is the majority study (2/3rds). However, the children will also be taught about Judaism in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1; and Islam and Hinduism at Key Stage 2. The

Church of England's 'Understanding Christianity' planning and resources are used for units of work focusing on the Christian religion.

Strategies for the teaching of religious education:

We use a number of strategies to enable us to cover all styles of learning. These include:

- Using a key question to direct pupils' thinking/enquiry about important concepts.
- Exploiting cross-curricular links wherever possible
- Making links with creative arts such as drama, music, art and literacy
- Making good use of ICT to develop learning in RE
- A mix of whole-class, group and individual approaches
- Setting common tasks which are open-ended and can have a variety of responses
- Mixed ability grouping where appropriate

We base our teaching and learning style in RE on the key principle that good teaching in RE allows children both to learn about religious traditions and to reflect on what the religious ideas and concepts mean to them. We encourage children to think about their own views and values in relation to the themes and topics studied; aiming to enable children to build on their own experiences and extend their knowledge and understanding of religious concepts.

The school has good links with St. Marys Church Warsash, where visits for worship and learning will be carefully planned to ensure that all children have a quality experience. Outside visitors also contribute to the RE curriculum.

Curriculum Planning, Monitoring and Review

The RE leader provides long-term and medium-term planning. Individual teaching staff are responsible for short-term planning of each unit of work to suit the individual needs of the class. The RE subject leader is responsible for supporting colleagues in the teaching of religious education, for being informed about current developments in the subject, and for providing a strategic lead and direction for the subject in the school.

Monitoring of RE teaching, discussion with learners, work scrutiny and moderation will take place by the RE leader, members of the Governing Body. The aim of any monitoring is to ensure that the quality of teaching, learning and assessment, leads to an improvement in the performance of learners across the school.

Assessment and Recording

We assess children's work in Religious Education by making informal judgements as we observe them during lessons. We recognise that sometimes RE activities can take place as part of a group and may be based around practical or discussion tasks, therefore individual written work may not be produced for more formal assessment. In such cases we will keep evidence such as photographs to aid more formal assessment. On completion of a unit of work, we make a summary judgement about the work of each pupil in relation to the key concepts from our Living Differences or Understanding Christianity planning.

Resources

A range of resources are available to enrich the RE curriculum, including artefacts, RE Centre booklets, DVDs and poster booklets. A budget will always be assigned to the development of RE. Resources are stored in the teachers' workroom, in boxes specific to each focus religion. In addition, artefact boxes may be borrowed from the RE Centre. The library in school is also a valuable resource for Bibles, books about other faiths, religious stories or stories exploring a range of concepts. These resources will also be supplemented by the use of video clips and web sites in order to make RE relevant and immediate for the children.

Equal Opportunities and Inclusion

We live in a multi-cultural, multi-racial society and we encourage the respect and understanding of other religions and cultures within the community in which we live. The school will respect faith traditions of all children attending the school.

Right of withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Religious Education as identified in the Education Reform Act. In order to avoid misunderstanding, any parent wishing to withdraw their child may arrange a meeting with the Headteacher in order to discuss any issues.

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