

Furzeham Primary and Nursery School

Religious Education Policy

The Legal Position

Furzeham Primary and Nursery School, in accordance with the 1988 Education Reform Act, provides Religious Education for all pupils registered at the School. Religious Education is part of the basic curriculum but not part of the National Curriculum because it is taught in accordance with a locally agreed syllabus (in our case the ***Devon, Plymouth and Torbay agreed syllabus 2007***). We must stress that Religious Education has the same status and importance as any other subject and the same high standards are applied to Religious Education as to all other subjects. We teach Religious Education according to the aims of the Devon, Plymouth and Torbay agreed syllabus and do not attempt to alter a child's own beliefs but to provide knowledge of their own and others beliefs.

The Aims

- The aims of Religious Education are drawn from the Devon, Plymouth and Torbay Agreed Syllabus and should help pupils to:
- Question what it means to be human, the ultimate meaning and purpose of life, issues of right and wrong, the nature of reality, and beliefs about God.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and the other principal religions, other religious traditions, and other World views.
- Gain awareness and understanding of religious beliefs, teachings, practises and forms of expression, as well as the influence of religion on individuals, families, communities and cultures.
- Learn from different religions, beliefs, values and traditions while exploring their own beliefs and questions of meaning and purpose.
- Develop their sense of identity and belonging, and enables them to flourish individually within their communities, as citizens of a pluralist society within a global community.
- Reflect on, consider, analyse, interpret and evaluate issues of truth, belief, values and traditions while exploring their own beliefs and questions of meaning and purpose.
- Be prepared to face the challenges and responsibilities of adult life, employment and lifelong learning.
- Develop respect and sensitivity to others, in particular those with friends and beliefs different from their own.

In addition Religious Education in the Devon, Plymouth and Torbay agreed syllabus:

- Offers opportunities for personal reflection and spiritual development
- Helps to combat prejudice, racism and discrimination
- Promotes a reflective, discerning, caring approach to life

Planning and Delivery

The Religious Education curriculum will be based on two central attainment targets:

- Attainment target 1 Learning about Religion
- Attainment target 2 Learning from Religion

The Religious Education curriculum will provide opportunities for children to develop the following skills and attitudes:

Skills:

Investigation/enquiry, communication, interpretation, analysis and evaluation.

Attitudes:

Self-esteem, respect, open mindedness and appreciation and wonder.

Choosing Materials

Material chosen will be drawn from six major religions, namely:

Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism, and Buddhism according to the key stage and consideration will be given to other non-religious perspectives such as humanism. In line with the Devon, Plymouth and Torbay agreed syllabus, Christianity will be taught throughout each Key Stage of learning.

Approach to Teaching and Learning

- Religious Education is an exciting curriculum subject so we employ a variety of teaching methods, including:
- Visiting places of worship and receiving visitors from Faith communities
- Using art, music, dance and drama
- Providing children with times of quiet reflection to develop their own thoughts and ideas
- Using story, pictures and photographs
- Using artefacts to help children develop their understanding of Religious beliefs and forms of expression
- Developing the effective use of ICT, (such as the internet, DVDs CD Rom's, email, video conferencing, multimedia and presentation software) to develop children's awareness of religions and beliefs.

Assessment and Record Keeping

We recognise that some of the important learning in Religious Education (e.g. how RE contributes to spiritual development) cannot be formally assessed. Records will include information of core/optional units studied, information on pupil's experiences and outcomes of assessment with reference to evidence. It is not anticipated that teachers will report on all aspects of the two Attainment Targets at any one time, but will be selective, commenting on the range of statements of attainment throughout the Key Stages. We will assess the children's progress against the level descriptors in the Devon, Plymouth and Torbay agreed syllabus.

Withdrawal from Religious Education

We strongly believe Religious Education is an important subject in children's learning. We recognise the legal right of:

- Parents to withdraw their child from Religious Education
- Teachers to withdraw from teaching the subject

We encourage any parties considering exercising this right, or with concerns about RE provision and practice at the school, to contact the Headteacher. However, we hope that all parents and teachers feel comfortable with the type of Religious Education being taught at Furzeham Primary and Nursery School.