



Thornton Primary School

Religious Education Policy

Updated: September 2023

Thornton Primary School
Policy for Religious Education

Respecting Rights

The policy is written with consideration to our school commitment to the Rights of the Child and our achievement of becoming a Rights Respecting School and it complies with Article 28 of the UNCRC 'Every child has the right to an education' as well as Article 29 'Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full'. Although direct reference to this is not continuously made, the policy has been written with full awareness of our responsibility and commitment to children's Rights.

Entitlement/Legal Requirement

All pupils at Thornton Primary School are entitled to receive a programme of teaching and learning in Religious Education in line with the Birmingham Agreed Syllabus 2022. The 2022 syllabus continues in the same direction as the 2007 syllabus with the learning driven through 24 dispositions. These dispositions represent pluralistic British values and ensure that Birmingham's children have their hearts and minds expanded so that their lives can be led in a city united through interconnected communities.

This conforms to national legislation which states that an agreed syllabus should:

- ... reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian. Whilst taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principle religions represented in Great Britain. (Education Reform Act 1988)

The Birmingham approach is designed to be inclusive for all children across our super-diverse city enabling each one to be respected and understood. The use of the syllabus will ensure a Religious Education that complies with the legal requirements.

The Birmingham Agreed Syllabus is particularly appropriate for a twenty-first century education where quality is defined in terms of an education which is cohesive rather than fragmented, developing children holistically to become happy, confident and ambitious. Understanding and living out the dispositions has positive effects on children's wellbeing and mental health.

Aims and Objectives:

- To develop the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural wellbeing.
- To develop the whole child by developing the following aspects: cognitive (thinking), affective (feeling), conative (willing, skills and social and communal development).
- To reflect on their beliefs, values and experiences.
- To develop positive attitudes towards other people, acknowledging their right to hold beliefs different from their own, and to enable them to live in a world with diverse religions.
- To develop knowledge and understanding of the faiths, practices and values of the religious traditions found in Birmingham and elsewhere, and their influence on individuals, families, communities and society.
- To experience and understand a range of approaches to life and different faiths.

- To enable them to develop the skills of living in a world where people of different faiths are respected and valued.

Equal opportunities and Inclusion

Religious Education at Thornton Primary School provides opportunities for all pupils, regardless of race, gender, disability, academic ability and social background. Staff should adapt lessons to promote inclusion according to the needs of the pupils. Stereotyping and extremist ideas should be challenged. Any concerns should be passed on to line managers following school protocols.

Time Allocation

It is recommended that in Key Stage One Religious Education is taught for in Key Stage Two for 45 hours per year. At Thornton Primary School Religious Education is taught as a separate subject on a weekly basis.

Implementation

Thornton Primary School follows the Birmingham Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2022 and uses the Faith Makes a Difference scheme of work which is adapted as necessary. Children's learning in this syllabus of Religious Education is guided by encouraging the understanding of the twenty-four dispositions as set out in the Agreed Syllabus. The scheme aims to give children a strong grounding in major world religions and now includes elements of non-religious world views to reflect the changing demographic of Birmingham.

Teaching methods should be stimulating and engaging, providing all pupils with access to Religious Education (see Teaching and Learning Policy). Consideration should be paid to different learning styles and the differing abilities of pupils so that all pupils make progress in their learning.

Appropriate teaching and learning strategies include:

- The handling of artefacts from religious traditions;
- The use of websites, iPads and interactive whiteboard resources;
- Reading and writing quality texts;
- Listening to and creating music;
- Opportunities to express feelings and ideas through drama, dance and art work;
- The use of pictures or word cards for matching, classifying, prioritising and sequencing;
- Visits to places of worship;
- The use of representatives of the religious traditions as visitors to the class.

At Thornton, we see visits to places of worship as an integral part of high-quality Religious Education teaching. Visits to places of worship, helps to build on the children's understanding of the range of faiths and cultures that compromise our society and how they, and themselves, fit within it.

Opportunities across the curriculum should also be seized and school celebrations throughout the year will give pupils the chance to extend their learning.

Evidence of work across each year group will be collected in Religious Education Black Books. The use of display to celebrate pupils' work, and to deepen or extend their thinking is to be encouraged.

Resources

Each year group will have a supply of resources relevant to their scheme of work. Other resources will be stored centrally.

Assessment

Formal assessment for Religious Education is not compulsory in Birmingham. Schemes of work will be annotated to inform future planning.

Monitoring

The subject leader will hold informal discussions with staff. Learning walks, black book scrutinies will take place. Pupil voice will be gathered across the year groups.

Right of Withdrawal

Parents retain the right to withdraw their children from any form of Religious Education under the 1988 Education Reform Act. This right is made clear to parents and carers in our school prospectus. Class teachers will meet with parents to discuss the issues in the first instance. Parents or carers will then meet with the co-ordinator and hopefully allay any concerns. If this does not resolve issues, request to withdraw children from Religious Education will be made in writing to the Headteacher and alternative arrangements will be made.

S. Ayub (October 2023)

