



Thornton Primary School

Religious Education Policy

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Policy for Religious Education

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 2007. 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)

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 36 hours per year and in Key Stage Two for 45 hours per year. At Thornton Primary School Religious Education is generally taught as a separate subject on a weekly basis, although teachers do have the freedom to teach longer sessions less frequently if this suits their curriculum.

Implementation

Thornton Primary School follows the Birmingham Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2007 and uses the Discovery scheme of work, adapted as necessary. The schemes of work cover the two attainment targets, Learning from Faith and Learning about Religious Traditions, through the 24 dispositions set out in the Birmingham Agreed Syllabus 2007.

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.

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 will be collected in Religious Education books and within the Class Log. The use of display to celebrate pupils' work, and to deepen or extend their thinking is to be encouraged.

Resources

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

Assessment

Teachers will follow procedures laid out in the Teaching and Learning policy. Teachers will keep ongoing records of pupils' progress in Religious Education. Formal assessment for Religious Education is not compulsory in Birmingham. Schemes of work will be annotated to inform future planning.

Monitoring

The co-ordinator will hold informal discussions with staff. Learning walks, book and planning scrutinies will take place. Pupil voice will be gathered across the phases. The co-ordinator will monitor annotated planning termly.

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.

Ms R Evans (RE co-ordinator) February 2016