

Park Primary School



Religious Education Policy

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and Newham RE Advisor – Claire Clinton

Agreed by:

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Religious Education Policy Statement

Aims

- To foster the development of positive attitudes in order to encourage pupils to see themselves as an equal, valued and valid part of the school and the community
- To develop an awareness of the spiritual side of life and to see that this is equally as important as the physical and intellectual sides
- To know and understand the beliefs of others and respect their right to believe and to understand how religious beliefs and practices affect people's lives
- To discover the significance of commitment to a personal faith for some people and to understand that a religious faith helps some people to consider and come to terms with basic human questions
- To examine questions relating to human existence and purpose
- To become responsible for one's own behaviour and to develop a willingness to act according to moral rules and to regulate behaviour for the good of another individual or the group
- To develop a willingness to see that others have a right to a point of view

Objectives

- To study the festivals and ceremonies, traditions and rituals that mark the stages of life
- To link basic religious concepts to practices of everyday living and to examine the roles of family life in religion
- To appreciate the similarities and differences between religions and to enrich their understanding of religious vocabulary
- To respond imaginatively to religious ideas and consider the different ways in which individuals may come to a personal faith and commitment

- To study the beliefs, instructions and organisations of particular religions
- To be sensitive to the feelings, beliefs and actions of others and to explore the idea that caring should come before personal interests
- To help children explore the awe, wonder and joy of life in all its forms, particularly new life and growth
- To help children with experiences of encountering change such as death, suffering, inequality and conflict
- To examine ideas of right and wrong and to discover the importance of silence and reflection
- To distinguish between religious and other forms of understanding, for example, scientific, historical
- To reflect on their own experiences and to develop a sense of religious understanding
- To appreciate the value of their own personal faith/beliefs and have confidence to be able to discuss them with others

Organisation/Approach

- The Religious Education curriculum is delivered through a variety of formats:
 - A thematic approach – through the study of class topics concentrating on an area of religion e.g. festivals
 - An integrated approach – by drawing out aspects of various religions which have a specific relevance to other curriculum areas
- The time allocated to Religious Education is 36 hours per year at Key Stage 1 and 45 hours per year at Key Stage 2. At Park it is delivered weekly in class by class teachers and occasionally from Religious Leaders
- At Key Stage 1 and 2 work will be centred mainly upon Christian traditions but also on Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish and Sikh traditions that are represented in the community

- The school's Religious Education Curriculum is based on Newham's Agreed Syllabus which is agreed by the Standing Advisory Committee on RE (SACRE). This is made up of Newham Councillors, teachers and faith group representatives
- Whilst studying Religious Education children are introduced to the relevance religion has had to the development of history, language and the social development of the United Kingdom

SMSC and Fundamental British Values

Park Primary actively promotes the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

The school also ensures that there is a rounded programme of themes/ assemblies that help to promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, providing clear guidance on what is right and what is wrong.

Religious Education at Park promotes tolerance of and respect for people of all faiths (or those of no faith), cultures and lifestyles.

Resources

Resources including books, posters and religious artefacts can be found in the store room on the top floor or with the subject leader. Schemes of work for each year group and digital resources can be found in the RE folder in RM staff/RE and are also available on the MLE.

Inclusion

RE aims to meet the needs of all children through planned differentiation and resources. This will include the need to adapt lessons to account for children's different learning styles and those for whom English is an additional language (through the use of visual aids and/or the support of another adult), children with Specific Special Educational Needs and the Gifted and Talented children.

The Religious Education Subject Leader

The subject leader has a clear action plan for Religious Education over the academic year. The action plan outlines the development of RE in relation to this policy, use of resources, monitoring of the quality of teaching and learning through observations, planning and book monitoring, analysing data and managing the budget. The subject leader is available to help staff to plan for religious education where required and will attend relevant courses and network meetings to keep up-to-date with local and national initiatives.

Withdrawal

Parents/carers have a legal right to withdraw their child from Religious Education. It is always hoped that here at Park we can find a way to keep all children involved in their religious education. Should a parent wish to do so, they must firstly speak to the subject leader to discuss their concerns. If they still wish to withdraw their child then a meeting must be requested with the head or deputy head teacher. Once a child has been withdrawn they cannot take part in the RE programme until the request for withdrawal has been removed.