RE Policy for New Hinksey C.E. Primary School

Within our tradition as a Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School, we are committed to making New Hinksey Primary an inclusive environment, fostering curiosity, spirituality, creativity and respect. At our school we want everyone to be valued, to explore the joy of learning, and to achieve their full potential.

Policy for Religious Education
Definition
Religious Education is a Curriculum subject, which is taught according to the Agreed Syllabus for Oxfordshire (2015) and the 1996 Education Act. The school welcomes all children and their families regardless of their faith stance. It does not seek to indoctrinate but to help pupils learn about and learn from religion, and to enhance their understanding and respect.
1. The Nature and Aims of Religious Education
We believe religious education is about people, ideas, values, ways of looking at life, and developing as a person.
Religious Education should help pupils to:

a) Develop a positive attitude to all people, respecting each other's beliefs and customs and celebrations in a diverse society.

b) Acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other world faiths including Judaism, Islam, Hinduism and Sikhism.

c) Develop an understanding of the influence of beliefs, values and traditions on individuals and societies, and how religion has shaped and inspired human history and culture, influencing developments in art, music, architecture and literature.

d) Develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues, with reference to the teachings of Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism and Sikhism.

e) Enhance their moral, spiritual, social and cultural development, helping to develop tolerance, consideration and a concern for justice, fairness and truth, through the study of religious teachings and practices.

f) To develop the skills of:
- Investigation
- Interpretation
- Reflection
- Stillness
- Empathy
- Evaluation
- Analysis
- Application
- Reasoning
- Expression

These skills are those upon which progress in religious education is dependent, and spirituality can be developed.

g) To develop and strengthen attitudes such as commitment, fairness, respect, self-understanding and enquiry that is fundamental to religious education.

2. Planning and Delivery
This policy document will form the basis of R.E. teaching in school.
It will be taught in the context of the classroom by the class teacher, or possibly the teacher covering the PPA time.
On the whole, R.E. will be delivered as a discrete subject, but with due regard being paid to current themes or topics, as links can often be made with other curricular areas.

3. Cross-Curricular Aspects
Through discussion within the teaching team, relevant links will be made with other subjects. R.E. lessons can make a valuable contribution to other aspects of children's education, by helping to develop skills and attitudes such as self-awareness, application, reflection and empathy.

4. Assessment and Record-Keeping
Pupils' development will generally be evaluated and assessed by discussion, observation by the teacher and marking any written work. Assessment will be ongoing and be used to help advance the children's learning about religion and from religion, plan future work, and to contribute to the annual report to parents.

5. Class Organisation & Teaching Methods
R.E. will generally be taught as a class subject including PPA provision with opportunities for individual, pair or group activity.
Most activities will be teacher- led; others will have an investigative approach including visits to places of worship and talks from visiting speakers.
Lessons will include instruction, discussion and listening, and provide opportunities for reflection, analysis and evaluation.

6. Equal Opportunities
All pupils regardless of race, age, ability, gender, class or religious or sexual orientation, will have equality of access to R.E. Alternative provision will be made for children whose parents have exercised the right to withdraw their child from R.E. lessons under the Education Reform Act (1988). It is currently part of our school policy that every subject be taught in such a way that nobody need be withdrawn from any lesson.

7. Management and Support
The role of all teachers is to keep up to date with current developments, to provide activities and resources and to give support and encouragement to other members of staff, to liaise with schools, the Diocese and religious bodies and organisations so that their R.E. lessons are delivered effectively. The Headteacher will support staff and assist in the dissemination of information and resources.

8. Resources
The allocation, acquisition and maintenance of R.E. resources will be the responsibility of the Headteacher. Resources should include books, DVDs, CDs, pictures and artefacts.
The Headteacher will ensure that a reasonable allocation of funds is available for the R.E. budget. The Parent Teachers' Association can be approached for specific resources as can The Trust fund held by St. John's Church.

9. Health and Safety
Health and Safety regulations will be adhered to, with special reference to the Educational Visits Policy, when accompanying children on visits outside school.

10. Monitoring and Reviewing the Policy
This R.E. policy will be reviewed every three years by the staff, in consultation with the Performance and Standards sub-committee of the governing body, who will also be responsible for monitoring the policy's implementation and reporting to the full governing body.

11. Right to Withdrawal
Parents have the right to withdraw their child from R.E. lessons under the Education Reform Act (1988). It is currently part of our school policy that every subject is taught in such a way that nobody need to be withdrawn from any lesson. Any parent wishing to withdraw their child from R.E. lessons must write to the Headteacher and alternative provision will be discussed.

Policy adopted: January 2016

Review date: January 2019