



Kingsway Primary School

Religious Education Policy and Guidance

Introduction

This document is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for teaching Religious Education at Kingsway Primary School.

It was developed through a process of consultation with teaching staff.

Statements of Principles

Religious Education, as confirmed in successive Education Acts, should form part of the basic curriculum experience by all pupils. Religious Education has equal standing to the core and foundation subjects within a school's curriculum. It should not be distinctive of any one denomination or theological position, and it is not the responsibility of the school to promote or to undermine any particular religious stance. The right of parents to withdraw their children from Religious Education remains unchanged.

Our scheme recognises the fact that the religious traditions within school are mainly Christian, yet it takes account of the teaching and practices of other principal religions represented in society. It is vital that children appreciate the multi-faith community which we live in. It is our job to ensure children develop a greater understanding of the range of religions within Trafford.

Religious Education is an essential part of every pupil's educational entitlement, learning about, and from, religion enriches and extends the understanding of pupils about the world in which they live. Religion is an aspect of life which has reality for the majority of people in the world today, in the past and in all cultures. All pupils should have the opportunity to explore the nature of religion in such a way that their views are based on sound knowledge and thoughtful reflection.

Principle Aim

The principal aim of Religious Education in this school is to engage pupils in systematic enquiry into significant human questions which religion and worldviews address, so that they can develop the understanding and skills needed to appreciate and appraise varied responses to these questions, as well as develop responses of their own.

Through Religious Education pupils will be encouraged to:

- develop an awareness of and respect for self, for others and for the world around them
- realise the uniqueness of themselves and others
- appreciate their own cultural identity
- reflect upon the experiences and mysteries of life

- investigate religious traditions, beliefs and practices
- recognise the significance of awe and wonder in religious belief
- understand what it is to have religious commitment
- understand the importance and influence of religion on societies and cultures
- observe, explore and discover from first hand experiences and from a variety of sources
- express their own responses imaginatively and in a variety of ways
- to encourage participation and response

Curriculum Organisation

In order to fulfill the statutory requirements, an appropriate allocation of time is allowed for Religious Education in Key Stage 1 and 2. This time allocation does not include collective worship, although the contribution of collective worship to Religious Education is recognised. Religious Education is taught in both Key Stages and Foundation Stage and is based upon the Trafford Agreed Syllabus for Religious education 2022-2027 Links with other subjects are identified and the contribution of Religious Education to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our pupils is made clear.

Planning is in line with the whole school planning policy. Since covid restrictions have lifted, daily acts of collective worship have resumed since September 2021.

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This forms either:

- a whole school assembly
- a 'well done' assembly
- Kingsway values assemblies

Our assemblies play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school. Kingsway Primary is a successful school and we celebrate the successes of all children in assemblies.

We invite parents into our 'well done' assembly when their children are involved, receiving certificates and rewards.

Right of Withdrawal

Parents have the statutory right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all Religious Education. This right is set out in section 71 of the Education Act 1996 and remains in force.

Where a child is withdrawn, the school will make appropriate arrangements for the supervision of the pupil during the relevant periods. The school is not required to provide alternative teaching as part of the withdrawal.

This policy reflects current Department for Education guidance, including *Religious Education in English schools: non-statutory guidance* (last updated September 2023).

Monitoring and Evaluation

It is the role of the Religious Education coordinator, the Head Teacher and the named school governor who is linked to Religious Education to monitor the policy and practice of Religious Education within the school. Regular communication with teaching staff on progress of lessons and teaching of the syllabus should be carried out. In addition, subject leadership monitoring (assessment of evidence in floor books) and pupil voice sessions should be carried out termly.

Teaching and Learning Styles

It is important in our school that all teachers, whatever their personal belief or standpoint, feel secure and comfortable in teaching Religious Education. Teaching methods are likely to include storytelling, visits to places of worship, discussion and debate. Pupils will need to be helped to handle and understand religious language, symbolism and meaning. Where possible, pupils will be able to learn from direct experience and their religious education will be enriched by personal experience of different religious places and leaders. Equal opportunities for all pupils to talk, listen, read and write should be provided, and their teachers will, where possible, create opportunities for pupils to reflect and consider their personal responses and feelings. Provision for pupils with special educational needs will be made, in accordance with the school policy.

Equality

At Kingsway Primary School we are opposed to all forms of racism, including those forms directed against individuals and groups on the grounds of their gender, religion, race, age, disability or sexual orientation. In order to realise our commitment to equality, we will take all steps necessary to:

- promote equality of opportunity
- promote good relations between persons of different groups
- eliminate unlawful discrimination

Special Educational Needs (SEND)

Children are identified as having special educational needs in line with the school SEN Policy and are given experience relevant to their ability. Pupils with SEN

may develop their personality and sense of themselves at a different pace. Planning should be tailored to meet the individual needs of their pupils as far as practical.

Continuity and Progression

2022-2027 Trafford Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education as guidance.

The Syllabus is designed to ensure:

- continuity between Year Groups and Key Stages
- increasingly challenging tasks for pupils
- progression in skills, concepts, knowledge and attitudes
- access to a wider range of resources to aid pupil progression

Reporting to parents is done two times a year through parent's evenings and annually through a written report.

Resources

Resources are located in a cupboard near to the EYFS entrance. Boxes are clearly labeled according to different religions and books and Bibles are also stored here.

ICT will be used when and where appropriate. Children will also be provided with the opportunity to explore a range of artifacts within class.

Each class uses a floor book to showcase their thoughts, ideas and feelings.