

West Cliff Primary School

RE Policy – 2019

Background to Religious Education in our school

Religious Education is a statutory subject for all pupils aged 5-11. Here at West Cliff Primary School and as a member of the Yorkshire Endeavour Learning Academy (YEAT) we are required, through our funding agreements, to teach RE to all pupils. Religious Education in North Yorkshire is supported by SACRE (The Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education) and the School Improvement Service.

A new Agreed Syllabus has been introduced for commencement in September 2019. This syllabus will run until 2024. The implementation of this new Agreed Syllabus is underway and we, as a school, have acted accordingly to ensure that the new syllabus is carried out and taught in line with local authority advice.

Our Intent

Our principal aim of RE 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.

Aims

The new Agreed Syllabus we adopt has three main aims –

- A. Know about and understand a range of religions and world views.
- B. Express ideas and insights about the nature, significance and impact of religions and worldviews.
- C. Gain and deploy the skills needed to engage seriously with religions and worldviews.

Strands of Teaching

The teaching of RE in our school is structured into the following three strands -

1. Believing – Religious beliefs, teachings, sources; questions of meaning and truth.
2. Expressing – Religious forms of expression; questions of identity, diversity and belonging.
3. Living – Practices and ways of living; questions of values and commitments.

Planning

In order to ensure that our aims are met and the Programme of Study is covered at each key stage the school uses the North Yorkshire units of learning for RE which builds-in coverage of and progression in both the content and concepts outlined in the Agreed Syllabus. We use a combination of teaching RE through RE days and as a separate

subject, depending on the material which has to be covered. Our long-term and medium-term plans give details of each unit of work for each term. The RE Subject Leader keeps and reviews these plans on a regular basis. Short term planning of individual lessons is a matter for the class teacher. The RE Subject Leader is available to help with this and as a school we keep a range of resources to aid the teaching of RE.

Assessment and Reporting

Assessment in RE is seen in its broadest sense and is not limited to measurement and testing. Through activities, for example discussion with pupils, group activities, marking and guiding their work, observing, displaying work, asking and answering questions, teachers are continually finding out about their pupils' achievements. Teachers use their own teacher judgements to constantly assess each child against the objectives set out in each unit. School reports are sent home in the summer term of each year and the RE section is written using teachers own judgement.

Equal Opportunities

Provision for RE is in accordance with the school's equal opportunities policy. In accordance with the aims of the school the pupils will develop an appreciation of and respect for the beliefs and philosophies of others. Pupils will be encouraged to value the rich variety of cultural traditions and lifestyles represented in Great Britain. It is acknowledged and respected that deep beliefs are held in the area of Religious Education. It is therefore our aim to deal with any matters arising as sensitively as possible. Provision for children with special educational needs, including more able children will follow the school's policies in these areas. Children's needs are carefully monitored and supported through teacher planning and assessment. This enables objectives, tasks, teaching methods, resources and teacher/adult input to be matched to pupil needs. It includes the use of more challenging objectives or extension materials and tasks for the more able.

Leadership and Management

The RE subject leader manages this area of the curriculum in line with our job description for subject leaders. There are regular staff meetings on RE and led by the subject leader where areas for development are discussed and evaluated against the subject action plan. This policy is reviewed at that meeting to ensure it still represents the values and practice of the school.

Rights for Withdrawal

Parents at West Cliff Primary School have the right to withdraw their children from the RE programme. Where parents have concerns about their children taking part in RE, they are asked to discuss their concerns first with the Headteacher or Subject Leader. S/he will be able to discuss the RE programme and teaching methods in greater detail and give parents access to the RE unit materials and resources used. We firmly believe that Religious Education forms part of the basic curriculum in schools and its teaching is enshrined in law. The school follows the North Yorkshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education and part of the curriculum encourages children to study Christianity in great detail, as well as finding out about Hinduism, Sikhism, Judaism, Buddhism and Islam through school trips, visits from outside speakers and class teaching. Our school is aware that children growing up in North

Yorkshire may have little contact with people from other faiths and cultures, such as Muslims and it is aware that it has a duty under the Equality Act 2010 to promote good relations between people of different beliefs and ethnicities as part of its single equality duty. Furthermore, the local governing body fully supports our vision and aims in delivering a broad and balanced approach to Religious Education.

Date Complete – September 2019

Date to be reviewed – September 2024

Signed – A J Wood (Subject Leader)