

## **Introduction**

This policy has been written as a response to the Nottinghamshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education.

It is a statement of the aims, principles and the strategies for the teaching and learning of Religious Education at John T. Rice Infant School. At John T. Rice Infant School we understand that spiritual, moral, social and cultural values are important in the education of all children. We aim to create a welcoming atmosphere for all pupils from religious communities and for those with little or no faith. We aim to give an understanding of different religions as the children learn about them. From this understanding we hope the children are informed about the world in which they live, can reflect upon it, and can therefore learn from religion.

At John T. Rice Infant School we have high expectations of children's work and celebrate children's achievements, fostering self-esteem and confidence.

## **Aims**

In Religious Education we aim for the children to have;

A sound knowledge of Christianity and some knowledge of other world religions.

An understanding of and the ability to respond to their knowledge of these religions.

An understanding of the influence of beliefs, values and traditions on individuals, societies, communities and cultures.

An enhanced spiritual, moral, cultural and social development through, a developing awareness of the questions of life, their own experiences and through reflecting on their own beliefs and values.

A positive attitude to other people, respecting their right to different beliefs and towards living in a society of diverse religions.

Developed enquiry and response skills through language listening and empathy.

A sense of awe and wonder for the world around them.

## **Objectives**

To teach using the Nottinghamshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education.

To teach an R.E. curriculum which is non-denominational and which is not designed to convert pupils.

To give a curriculum which reflects the fact that Christianity is the main belief in Great Britain and therefore the relative content devoted to Christianity predominates.

## **Teaching and Learning**

### **Our Curriculum**

At John T. Rice we follow the Learning Challenge Curriculum. The ethos that underpins the Learning Challenge approach requires teachers to check on what children already know and then inspire them through an initial key question and subsequent questions to investigate. This same ethos is also used in the teaching of R.E.

### **Planning**

Our cross-curricular long term planning is based on a two year planning cycle with a different Learning Challenge each half term. Each Learning Challenge has a link to an area of the Key Stage 1 Nottinghamshire Agreed Syllabus for R.E.

The specific areas include:

Christianity and other World Religions (Beliefs of people around the world)

Places of worship

Festivals

Religious stories

Leaders and teachers

Key Stage teams meet half termly to complete the medium term planning.

Class teachers have responsibility for creating their own weekly planning based on the needs of the children using assessment for learning.

### **Monitoring and Assessment**

Children are informally assessed during lessons, through questioning and performance which will be used formatively to inform planning.

Work scrutinies will be completed half termly (with either the SLT or teaching staff) to monitor the quality and consistency of work in R.E. Termly planning scrutinies will take place to monitor coverage and progression of R.E. across the key stage. Due to the cross curricular nature of the Learning Challenge approach, Teaching & Learning observations will be conducted termly and used to monitor a range of subject areas.

### **Speaking & Listening**

Speaking and listening activities should be encouraged within R.E. whenever possible. These should be linked to the learning objectives for Spoken Language taken from the National Curriculum for English.

## **Equal Opportunities**

At John T. Rice Infant School we are aware of the need for equality of access for all children. Our staff believe strongly in creating equal opportunities for all children and work to this aim. We introduce and build upon the children's awareness of equal opportunities including the development of respect and understanding of multi-cultural, gender and S.E.N. issues.

## **E-Safety**

Whilst using a wide range of technologies to teach R.E, we need to ensure children are safeguarded. E-Safety encompasses Internet technologies and electronic communications such as mobile phones as well as collaboration tools and personal publishing. It highlights the need to educate pupils about the benefits and risks of using technology and provides safeguards and awareness for users to enable them to control their online experience.

E-Safety depends on effective practice at a number of levels:

- Responsible ICT use by all staff and pupils; encouraged by education.
- Sound implementation of e-safety policy in both administration and curriculum, including secure school network design and use.

## **Collective Worship**

Collective worship is not part of our syllabus for R.E. However, our collective worship can involve R.E. We understand that collective worship of a Christian character plays an important part in the promotion of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils. Our collective worship is linked to SEAL and R.E. work taking place in classrooms, and also looks at the major festivals from a variety of religions and is flexible and varied in ways. We also respect the right of parents/carers to request the child's withdrawal

This policy was reviewed in Autumn 2017 and will be reviewed again in Autumn 2018.