



Priory Infant School

Religious Education Policy

Legal Requirements

The National Curriculum 2014 recognises Religious Education (RE) as one of the subjects required for all pupils.

Religious Education at Priory Infant School is provided in line with and meets statutory requirements, which are that:

- The curriculum for every maintained school shall include provision for religious education for all pupils registered at the school.
- The religious education programme must reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian whilst taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religious traditions represented in Great Britain.
- The religious education provided shall be adapted from and follow the themes in the locally agreed syllabus for Kent.

Aims of Religious Education

Within the framework of statutory requirements and those of the locally agreed syllabus, our aims in RE are:

- To enable each pupil to explore how people celebrate and worship at an appropriate level for their age, development and understanding.
- To develop pupils' awareness, knowledge and understanding of religion through exploration of the beliefs and practices of the principal world faiths represented in Great Britain.
- To promote awareness, respect and sensitivity for the traditions of other people, both those who have a faith and those who do not.
- To provide opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- To support pupils to understand that people have different ideas and beliefs and to be tolerant of difference.

School Context

Priory Infant School serves children between the ages of 4 and 7 within the Ramsgate area. We have planned our own scheme of work using the themes from the Kent Agreed Syllabus for RE. We recognise the variety of religious and non-religious families from which our pupils come. We welcome and celebrate this diversity, and are sensitive to the home background of each child and work to ensure that all pupils feel and are included in our RE programme. We recognise the importance of pupils' all-round personal development and the leading role that RE plays in contributing to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural elements in particular. We agree with the aims of RE as expressed in the agreed syllabus and teach to these in a balanced and age appropriate way.

- Priory Infant School is responsible for leading, managing and monitoring all aspects of the subject to secure high standards of attainment and achievement in RE.

- The subject leader is also responsible for supporting all colleagues who teach RE, for example, through provision of advice and guidance on teaching and learning strategies. She also has oversight of their continuing professional development, particularly with regard to the acquisition of the necessary subject knowledge and understanding to teach the subject effectively.
- A scheme of work for each year group, based on the agreed syllabus, is available for teachers and for scrutiny by interested parties.
- Provision in RE is through termly themes in Reception and Key Stage 1 where Christianity, Judaism and Hinduism are the major religions studied. As appropriate children will also learn about other faiths eg. Islam, Buddhism.
- We use a variety of teaching and learning styles in RE to engage pupils positively and actively with the subject content. Thus we aim to use, for example, art, drama, ICT, speaking and listening activities, audio-visual materials, posters, photographs, display work and visitors/visits. RE is expected to comply with the whole school policy on teaching and learning and to contribute to cross-curricular work in an appropriate way.
- We report on pupils' progress and attainment in RE to parents at the end of the key stage as required by law and reporting is based on whether children are working at the expected stage for their age (or whether they are below or exceeding the expected stage).
- We have a wide range of resources to teach RE, including books, posters, artefacts, music, video etc.
- We plan visits to local faith communities. Year 1 visit a local Church and a local Synagogue as part of our RE programme. Year 2 have visits from Hindu dancers as part of their "India" topic work. Where appropriate we have visitors from faith communities that take occasional assemblies alongside our Headteacher and teaching staff.

We intend that this policy will operate for the next three years when it will be subject to a full review led by the subject leader and involving the headteacher, teaching staff and governors, to ensure that the policy is embedded in practice. The subject leader has the responsibility of monitoring and evaluating the subject and to support this process teachers are asked to liaise closely with the subject leader each term.

Withdrawal

We acknowledge the rights of parents to withdraw their child(ren) from RE and those of teachers to withdraw from teaching the subject. We aim to provide an open and inclusive curriculum which can be taught to all pupils, by all teachers. We do not, therefore, anticipate any requests for withdrawal. We do, however, have a procedure in place to deal with any questions or concerns from parents about RE or withdrawals which, should in the first instance, be raised with the subject leader, then referred to the headteacher.

Equal Opportunities

RE will challenge stereotypes, misinformation and misconceptions about race, gender and religion. It will seek to present religions in all their richness and diversity in terms of beliefs, traditions, customs and lifestyle in a sensitive and accurate way as well as teaching children that some people have no faith / religious beliefs.

Subject leader: Mrs Julie Miles

Next review October 2018

This policy has been adopted by the governors in consultation with the headteacher, subject leader and teaching staff.