

Beaconsfield Primary School



RE Policy

June 2010

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Beaconsfield R.E Policy

Introduction

Beaconsfield Primary School is made up of staff and pupils who originate from many nationalities, cultures and faith groups. As a school we aim to celebrate this diversity and offer a welcoming and inclusive environment for all our pupils, including new arrivals and non-native English speakers.

We believe that Religious Education provides an opportunity to celebrate and foster awareness of these differences within our school and the wider world. It is a subject that celebrates diversity and challenges stereotypes.

RE is taught in accordance with the aims of the Agreed Syllabus produced by Ealing SACRE 'The Marriage of Heaven and Earth'.

Legal Requirements

In accordance with the law we provide religious education for all pupils registered at the school.

Parents who choose to withdraw their children from Religious education lessons are required to meet and discuss this with the Head teacher.

The Scheme of Work

The scheme of work for Religious Education covers all the requirements of the Ealing Agreed Syllabus. RE is taught in termly units across the school in a combination of religion-based and thematic topics.

There are a set of core and optional units that are required to deliver the programmes.

Teaching and Learning

Planning for Religious Education is based on the two Attainment Targets in the Agreed Syllabus:

1. Learning *about* Religions
2. Learning *from* Religions

Learning *about* religion includes enquiry into and investigation of the nature of religion, its key beliefs and teachings, practices, their impacts on the lives of believers and communities, and the varying ways in which these are

expressed. It also includes the skills of interpretation, analysis and explanation. Pupils learn to communicate their knowledge and understanding using specialist vocabulary. It also includes identifying and developing an understanding of ultimate questions and ethical issues.

Learning *from* religion is concerned with developing pupils' reflection on and response to their own experiences and their learning about religion. It develops pupils' skills of application, interpretation and evaluation of what they learn about religion, particularly to questions of identity and belonging, meaning, purpose and truth and values and commitments, and communicating their responses.

Equal opportunities

Inclusion and differentiation for children with SEN and EAL are taken into account in our planning and teaching as they are in all areas of the curriculum. Within the teaching of RE we make the most of opportunities to help the children develop their sensitivity to relevant issues such as refugees and religious fasting, and to develop positive attitudes towards themselves and others.

We endeavour to draw on the varied experiences and backgrounds of our pupils and staff in order to make RE relevant and interesting to our pupils. Important festivals are celebrated from different religions within the school and wider community. A class will lead an assembly and parents are invited to attend.

Through RE children have the opportunity to develop many key skills such as thinking, researching, evaluating, reflecting and empathising. Wherever possible, links are made between Religious Education and other curriculum subjects.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

Religious Education is a key opportunity for children to develop morally, spiritually, socially and culturally. In RE lessons, as well as PCHSE and our Collective Worship policy, children are invited to reflect on their personal responses to issues, consider other people's responses, and appreciate that for some people belief in a spiritual dimension is important.

We encourage children to consider the answers offered by faith groups to questions of meaning and purpose and problems within society and their own experience.

Religious education also strongly supports the school's citizenship programme by introducing pupils to the significance of belonging to a community, the diversity of communities in the wider communities, faith rules and their application to moral and ethical issues and cultural influences on religious practice.

Recording, Marking, Assessment and Reporting

Assessment takes place at the end of each unit in the scheme of work. This indicates what most pupils should know and understand. Judgements about children's achievements are made through formal assessment and regular marking of pupils' work. Pupils are guided about what they have done well, what they need to improve and ways in which they might make that improvement. Teachers are encouraged to complete assessments at the end of each unit of work. These assessments should indicate what students know and understand.

Management

The teaching, assessing and resourcing of Religious Education is managed by the RE curriculum leader, in close collaboration with Senior Management.

The curriculum leader attends regular training and professional development, and organises INSET and training for other members of staff when necessary. RE planning is collected for monitoring and a sample of books looked at regularly throughout the year. The scheme of work is evaluated annually.

Resources are bought with the annually allocated RE budget and stored in the RE room -a central place for use by all staff.