

The Grange School

Religious Education Policy

June 2017

To review June 2020



National and Legal Framework

RE at The Grange School, Daventry, will be provided in line with legal requirements. These are that:

- . the basic curriculum will include provision for Religious Education for all pupils on the school roll;
- . the content of RE shall reflect that religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, while taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religious traditions represented in Great Britain;
- . the RE which is provided shall be in accordance with the locally Agreed Syllabus for Northamptonshire (SACRE)

Context

The Grange School is a large primary school, in a small market town in Northamptonshire. It serves children from ages 3 - 11. We recognise the variety of religious and non-religious backgrounds from which our pupils come. We welcome the diversity we have within our school community, whilst also recognising that our community is not overly diverse. Our RE curriculum tries to reflect both of these things; being sensitive of the beliefs of those in our community whilst introducing children to beliefs, customs and practices which are not represented in our local area. We feel it is crucial that children are introduced to faiths represented in the wider community and in Great Britain. An introduction to key beliefs, practices and the impact of faith will hopefully lead to understanding, respect and tolerance.

Whole school aims and objectives

At The Grange School, RE has an important contribution to make towards this by providing a caring environment where children feel secure and able to express their views and beliefs. They are encouraged to value their own opinions, whilst developing respect, tolerance and sensitivity for the views of others.

Pupils are encouraged to understand the importance of the role that each individual has to play in the life of the school and of the wider community. Links are made with a variety of faith groups to help develop this aim.

Within the framework of the law and the Agreed Syllabus, our aims in RE are for pupils to:

- . acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and the other principal religions represented in Great Britain;
- . develop an understanding of the influence of beliefs, values and traditions on individuals, communities, societies and cultures, from the local to the global;
- . develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues, with reference to the teachings of principal religions represented in Great Britain;
- . enhance their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development by:
 - Developing awareness of the fundamental questions of life raised by human experiences, and of how religious teachings and other beliefs can relate to them;
 - Responding to such questions with reference to the teachings and practices of religions and other belief systems, relating them to their own experiences and understanding;
 - Reflecting on their own beliefs, values and experiences in the light of their study;

. develop positive attitudes of respect and tolerance towards other people who hold beliefs and views different from their own, and towards living in a society of diverse religions and beliefs.

Right of withdrawal

In keeping with the law, parents may withdraw their children from Religious Education provided they give written notification to the school. The school will ensure that suitable supervision is provided.

We also note that teachers can exercise their right to withdraw from teaching RE if they wish to do so but must give notice of their intention in writing to the Governing Body.

RE does not seek to enforce religious beliefs on staff or children, or to compromise the integrity of their own beliefs by promoting any one religion over another. We hope that all parents and staff will feel comfortable with the open Religious Education being taught at our school and we encourage the participation of all.

Equal Opportunities

In keeping with the aims of school policy, the teaching of RE endeavours to ensure that all pupils receive equal access to educational opportunities regardless of their religious beliefs, gender, race, ability, social background or physical capacity. Care is taken in RE to avoid the reinforcement of negative or stereotypical images and RE aims to celebrate and appreciate cultural diversity, in order to reflect the cultural diversity of Great Britain.

Time Allocation

RE is part of the basic curriculum and all schools are required to teach RE to all pupils on the school roll, except where parents exercise their right of withdrawal. The QCDA recommended and exemplified a minimum of 36 hours of RE, per year, for KS1 pupils and 45 hours per year at KS2. This recommendation is endorsed by the Northamptonshire Agreed Syllabus and, as such, is adhered to by the school.

Scheme of Work

An overview of the school's RE curriculum, based on the Northamptonshire Agreed Syllabus, is available for anyone who is interested in the school's Religious Education curriculum. The school's curriculum is fully compliant with the recommendations in the Northamptonshire Agreed Syllabus.

Resources

A wide range of resources are in place for each topic area within the Religious Education scheme of work. These are all individually boxed and stored according to religion. A list of contents for each box is displayed on each box. Teachers are positively encouraged to incorporate the use of artefacts into their religious education teaching.

SMSC

Religious Education plays a key role in pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. This is outlined in detail in the Agreed Syllabus document. Religious Education looks at moral codes and values that underpin people's behaviour, It promotes values and attitudes that develop the fundamental British Values of respect and tolerance of others and their beliefs. RE enables discussion of a range of views,

opinions and beliefs which help to prepare children to become valuable citizens in a culturally diverse society.

We try to ensure that visitors from different faith communities and cultural backgrounds and visits to places of worship are planned into the curriculum experiences. This helps to develop community cohesion through the RE curriculum.

Collective Worship

RE is different in nature to both worship and Assembly. The aims and objectives of RE are different and distinct from those of Collective Worship. RE is about developing skills, knowledge and understanding in order to make decisions about the important questions. Worship gives children the opportunity to participate in an experience which can lead to a heightened sense of spiritual awareness. Assembly can emphasise the more ritual and ceremonial aspects of worship and can be used as a springboard from which to launch a project or inspire a larger number of children at one time.

Religious Education cannot be taught wholly through assemblies. The assembly context does not give the opportunity for the exercise of many skills; which are covered in RE lessons.