



## **Bournebrook C of E Primary School**

### **Religious Education Policy**

#### **Introduction**

As a Voluntary Controlled Church of England Primary School, we strive to achieve a positive caring ethos throughout the school and this is reflected in our teaching.

Religious Education is an integral part of school life. This is evident by the encouragement of a sense of personal worth and respect for others.

There will be consistent expectations of good behaviour toward others and toward property.

A happy atmosphere within the school which is conducive to the acquisition of knowledge and skills will be achieved if everyone, adults and children, share common values.

Our work in the community ensures that our children take an active part in the life of our villages. We share the concerns and celebrations of our villages.

#### **The Nature and Purpose of Religious Education**

Religious Education explores areas related to spiritual experiences such as celebration, awe and wonder, commitment, goodness, wholeness and joy.

Religious Education involves learning about particular religious traditions in our own country and abroad. This incorporates Christianity as the main religion in our community as well as other major world faiths.

The school actively encourages empathy and mutual respect. Children are encouraged to exercise tolerance – consideration and appreciation and to listen. They develop skills of critical appraisal in order to guard against bias – indoctrination – superstition and to have the opportunity to reflect upon their own views.

In school we educate and help children to understand the meaning and nature of religion and equip them with the knowledge and attitudes necessary for them to be able to form their own opinions about religion at their own individual level of understanding.

As a Church of England Primary School, a strong emphasis is placed on worship, in the classroom, through collective worship and services in church. In this context, the meaning and nature of religion is communicated through the worshipping experience as well as through classroom teaching and the ongoing example given by the whole school community.

### **Equal Opportunities Statement**

It is the entitlement of all pupils to have full access to all aspects of Religious Education at the appropriate level. We ensure that all children have equal access to every aspect of Religious Education whatever their cultural background or level of special educational need.

### **Aims**

The aims of religious education are;

- To develop awareness of the spiritual and moral dimensions of life experiences and identify questions and issues.
- To develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other principal religions.
- To develop understanding of what it might mean to be committed to a religious tradition.
- To allow children the opportunity to reflect on their own experiences, beliefs and values and develop personal responses to questions in the light of their studies.
- To enable children to have confidence in their own viewpoint whilst engaging in open and honest enquiry; respecting the right of others to hold beliefs different from their own in a religiously diverse society.

### **The Legal Requirements**

The Education Reform Act requires all pupils to have an education which is balanced and broad, promotes their spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development and prepares them for adult life.

Every LEA is required to have a locally Agreed Syllabus which must reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are, in the main, Christian and take account of the teaching and practice of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain.

We follow the Warwickshire Agreed Syllabus (2009) in our school and will be following the new Agreed Syllabus from Sept 2017.

### **Entitlement**

All pupils are provided with knowledge and insight into religious beliefs and with opportunities to reflect on their experiences in order to develop self knowledge and religious awareness.

At Bournebrook, children are offered the opportunities to:

- reflect on the importance of a system of personal belief
- recognize the place that a Christian, or other, faith has in the lives of people
- develop a sense of awe, curiosity and mystery
- be creative, questioning and imaginative within a broad Christian framework which recognizes the importance of personal values and respect for the beliefs of others
- develop their own personal Christian (or other) faith

### **Implementation**

Teaching and Learning Approaches.

Pupils begin Religious Education by exploring their experiences of themselves as individuals, of the world around them and of relationships with others.

We encourage the children to reflect and share their own feelings and try to develop a curiosity about people, objects, places and events around them.

These criteria will be met on the whole through topic areas within the class group or year group, working either as a class, group or individual. This may be through a variety of approaches, eg music, art, play, story visits, visitors and artefacts.

The foundation of relationship skills will be laid as pupils explore the similarities and differences between themselves and others. They will be encouraged to value themselves and others within both our school and local community. To help in this, visitors from other faiths are welcomed into our school, to talk about and share their knowledge and experiences.

During their time at Bournebrook, as well as regularly using St Mary's and All Saints church, children will visit the cathedral, a place of worship that reflects our multi-cultural society and the multi-denominational Faith centre in Coventry.

We have a collection of artefacts for the children to experience at first hand. These are organised into dedicated boxes for each world faith.

Religious Education does not stand alone. It is planned in the same way as other subjects and it has many natural links with other curriculum areas.

### **Classroom**

Work on Religious Education is displayed within school, in this way we encourage the children to understand that this aspect of school life is equally as important as other areas of the curriculum.

Display and the use of display is important as a means of bringing the outside environment into the classroom.

Work in the classroom about visits to places of worship and the usage of a variety of artefacts all have an important part to play in the development of the child's understanding.

### **Assessment and Reporting**

The assessment, recording and reporting of children's work will be in accordance with the school policy. The descriptors outlined in the Schemes of Work for RE will be used. Teaching and Learning in RE is monitored following the school's arrangements.

It is the right in law of parents to withdraw their children from Religious Education. Nevertheless it is very much hoped that parents will accept the value of Religious Education as an essential part of the total curriculum. Parents are encouraged to come into school to discuss their concerns with the Headteacher.

This policy is supported by policies for:

- Collective Worship
- Personal, Social and Health Education
- Spiritual Development

### **Policy Review**

Lynette Farrar:	March 2017
Ratification by Governors:	
Review date:	March 2019