

# CLAYPOLE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

### Introduction

It is our aim to develop pupils' knowledge, understanding and awareness of Christianity, as the predominant religion in Great Britain and the other principle religions represented in this country; to encourage respect for those holding different beliefs; and to promote pupils' spiritual, moral, cultural and intellectual development. We also seek to follow the aims of the Lincolnshire Agreed Syllabus.

### The Aims of RE at Claypole Primary School.

RE will be provided in line with the legal requirements. These are that:

- curriculum will include provision for religious education for all pupils on the school roll;
- the content of RE shall reflect the fact 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 Lincolnshire LEA (published in 2006).
- in order to deliver the aims and expected standards of the syllabus, a minimum allocation of curriculum time for RE based upon the law and DfE and QCDA guidance is a *minimum* 5% of curriculum time is required for teaching RE.

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

- to enable each child to explore our shared human experience and the questions of meaning and purpose which arise from our experiences;
- to enable pupils to know about and understand the beliefs and practices of some of the great religions of the world, particularly those represented in Lincolnshire and the UK. Among these religions, Christianity has a particular place, and is taught in each year of the primary phase;
- to promote respect, sensitivity and cultural awareness by teaching about the religions represented in the region and the country;
- to affirm each child in his / her own family tradition, religious or secular;
- to provide children with opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development;
- to develop the ability of pupils to think about, and develop for themselves, beliefs and values by which they can live through studying concepts like celebration, the sacred, authority, religious belief and lifestyle, and through exploring the fundamental questions of life.

### **The Nature of Religious Education**

In accordance with the National Curriculum Religious Education has equal standing with other non-core subjects. As a Church of England Controlled School our syllabus is the Agreed Lincolnshire Authority syllabus, which aims to enable pupils to explore religion in order to achieve knowledge and understanding, to assist pupils' own search to develop their own beliefs, values and perceptions and to develop a respect by pupils for the rights of other people to hold views and beliefs different from their own.

### **Entitlement**

In line with the 1988, 1996 and 1998 Education Acts all children will receive Religious Education unless the parent/s formally withdraw their own children.

As recommended in the National Curriculum, Key Stage One will receive thirty six hours per year and Key Stage Two forty five hours over the school year.

### **Transition to Secondary**

We use the transition ideas provided by the Agreed Syllabus, and provide the schools our pupils move on to with a simple statement of the religions and topics they have been studying as part of their transition information.

### **Implementation**

Claypole Church of England Primary School has seven classes in single age groups. We follow the Lincolnshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education. All concepts are covered at least once in each Key Stage: Celebration, Religious Beliefs, The Sacred and Authority.

Throughout Key Stage 1, pupils will explore Christianity and at least one other principal religion. Through thematic planning, pupils will have the opportunity to explore other principal religions.

Throughout Key Stage 2, pupils will be given the opportunity to explore up to six religions but the major learning opportunity in Key Stage Two is Christianity, with significant learning opportunities in Hinduism and Islam. Through thematic planning, pupils will have the opportunity to explore other religions, such as Sikhism, Islam and Buddhism.

Religious Education is taught in a variety of ways: thematic, cross curricular, topic based and as a separate subject in greater depth when no cross curricular links are obvious.

During the Summer Term a Local Christian Educational Organisation, ran by a parent, support Year 6 in preparation of their transition to secondary school in a Christian context.

Our scheme of work is integrated into the whole school framework. Each year has a scheme of work with termly themes, stated programmes of study from the Agreed Syllabus 2006 (these are sometimes supplemented by relevant Q.C.A's) and thematic learning.

Through thematic planning (each term), pupils will have the opportunity to identify similarities, differences and make links between the six principal religions. For example, in Years 1 and 2 there is an opportunity for pupils to learn about the places of worship, used not only in Christianity and Judaism but other religions too.

### **Matching Work to Pupils' Needs**

Whole school policy with regard to special needs and differentiation applies to RE: teachers should be alert to the fact that some children have special and deep experience of a religion through family practice. This of course may not relate to their general educational 'ability'.

### **Assessment**

Throughout the year, teaching staff will make formative assessments using the identified Key Assessment Objectives ('non-negotiables') for each unit of work and year group. At the end of each academic year, teaching staff will use this assessment to assess pupils' attainment and progress in Religious Education. Children's progress is reported to parents annually in a written report.

**Monitoring, Evaluation and Review**

The co-ordinator's role includes monitoring and evaluation of this policy in practice. We will maintain a 'self evaluation' of our RE work in readiness for inspection. The subject leader will maintain an active awareness of the strengths and weaknesses of the subject, in line with OFSTED guidance about self evaluation and review.

**Links with the community**

Our school is a Church of England School and attaches high priority to strong links between school, home, the local church and the community. We value the involvement of our foundation governors, local clergy, other religious leaders and the diocese.

As part of Religious Education and Collective Worship our school has active links with St Peter's Church in Claypole and Reverend Sonia who also delivers Collective Worship in school.