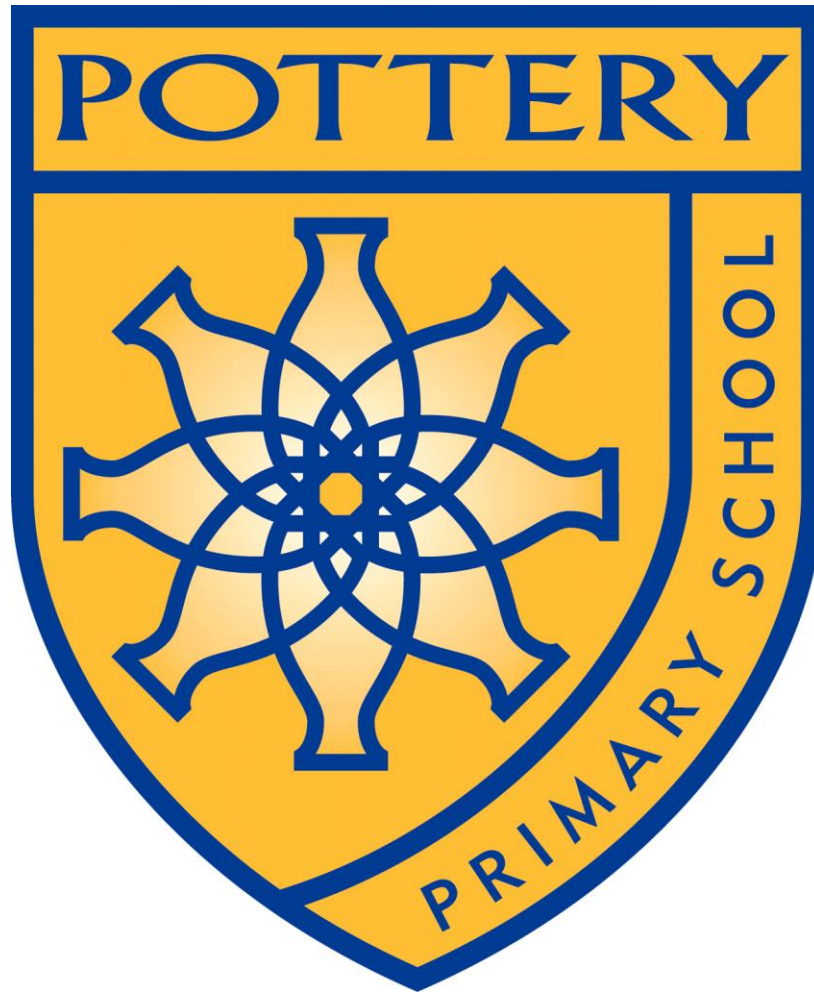


Religious Education Policy



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Religious Education Policy

Pottery Primary School Mission Statement

Dream, Believe, Achieve.

Introduction

This document is for the information of staff, governors, parents and all those concerned with the learning and welfare of the children at Pottery Primary School. It complies with the National Curriculum requirements for teaching Religious Education. All staff and governors have responsibility to ensure this policy is understood and implemented.

Policy Statement

The Legal Framework

The Education Reform Act specifies that schools should provide a balanced and broadly-based curriculum which:

- a) promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society; and
- b) prepares such pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life (Section 1 (2)).

In Addition

- All registered pupils at a school, including sixth formers, are entitled to receive Religious Education (Section 2 (1) (a)).
- In County Schools Religious Education must be non-denominational and taught in accordance with the Local Authority's Agreed Syllabus (Section 26 of 1944 Act). In Voluntary Controlled Schools, the Agreed Syllabus will be taught except where parents have requested denominational teaching (Section 27 of 1944 Act).
- Any new Agreed Syllabus shall 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 religions represented in Great Britain (Section 8 (3)).
- Parents retain the right to withdraw their children from Religious Education (Section 9 (3)).

Aims and Objectives

'The study of religious and non-religious world views is a core component of a rounded academic education' Derbyshire and Derby City Agreed Syllabus 2020-2025

Religious Education is taught at Pottery Primary School following the aims and objectives outlined in the Derbyshire and Derby City Agreed Syllabus 2020-2025.

The principal aim of RE is to engage pupils in systematic enquiry into significant human questions which religion and worldviews address, so that they can develop the understanding and skills needed to appreciate and appraise varied responses to these questions, as well as develop responses of their own.

The threefold aim of RE listed below elaborates this principal aim.

The curriculum for RE aims to ensure that all pupils:

1. Know about and understand a range of religions and worldviews so that they can:

- describe, explain and analyse beliefs and practices, recognising the diversity which exists within and between communities and amongst individuals.
- identify, investigate and respond to questions posed, and responses, offered by some of the sources of wisdom found in religions and worldviews.
- appreciate and appraise the nature, significance and impact of different ways of life and ways of expressing meaning.

2. Express ideas and insights about the nature, significance and impact of religions and worldviews, so that they can:

- explain reasonably their ideas about how beliefs, practices and forms of expression influence individuals and communities
- express with increasing discernment their personal reflections and critical responses to questions and teachings about identity, diversity, meaning and value, including ethical issues
- appreciate and appraise varied dimensions of religion.

3. Gain and deploy the skills needed to engage seriously with religions and worldviews, so that they can:

- find out about and investigate key concepts and questions of belonging, meaning, purpose and truth, responding creatively
- enquire into what enables different individuals and communities to live together respectfully for the wellbeing of all
- articulate beliefs, values and communities clearly in order to explain why they may be important in their own and other people's lives.

Content

RE is a locally determined subject not national and for this reason the Derbyshire and Derby City Agreed Syllabus is followed at Pottery Primary School. RE is for all children, including children in the Foundation Stage. The agreed syllabus requires that all pupils learn from Christianity in each key stage. In addition, pupils will learn about and from the principal religions represented in the UK. These religions are; Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism and Judaism. Furthermore, children will learn about individuals and families where non-religious views are held including; Humanism.

Organisation within the Curriculum

RE is for all pupils, except those withdrawn by parents or guardians and is therefore delivered to pupils either on a weekly basis as a distinctive lesson or at times can be taught as a block of sessions, over several days rather than weekly. Wherever possible cross-curricular links are made.

Here at Pottery the Derbyshire and Derby City Agreed Syllabus 2020-2025 is delivered to pupils through a two-year cycle of topics to allow for our mixed year groups.

Time Allocation

In order to deliver the aims and expected standards of the Derbyshire and Derby City Agreed Syllabus effectively, the expectation is that there is a minimum allocation of 5 per cent of curriculum time for RE.

This recommended time is as follows for each key stage;

Key Stage 1: 36 hours per year

Key Stage 2: 45 hours per year

Assessment and record keeping

At the start of each new unit of work, children are asked to share in a variety of ways, which may include a mind map, their prior understanding of the religion being covered. This chosen method of preassessment is then returned to in order to evaluate what children have learnt about a religion at the end of each unit. Alongside this, class teachers use their professional judgement to assess children's progress through a variety of mediums including; marking their work, contributions during class discussions, questioning and quizzes. This assessment in each lesson will support and inform the planning carried out by the class teacher based on children's current understanding of a religion or topic being delivered to ensure progression is achieved. Itrack is then also used as a formal method of assessment which is monitored by the subject coordinator.

Special Educational Needs

All teachers have the responsibility for meeting the needs of children with Special Educational Needs (SEN). All pupils follow the units set out in the Derbyshire and Derby City Agreed Syllabus 2020-2025. Work set is differentiated to cater for all levels of ability to ensure pupils progress and demonstrate achievement.

Equal Opportunities

Every effort is made to ensure that religious education activities are equally as interesting and accessible to both boys and girls. Teachers strive to avoid any bias according to a child's sex, ethnic origin, disability or social background in accordance with procedures outlined by Derbyshire County Council. Planning will indicate where and when necessary, how lessons/activities are adapted or extended to cater for children of differing abilities. This may at times involve a pupil or pupils being taught by another member of staff other than the class teacher.

Right of withdrawal

The right of withdrawal was first granted when religious education was religious instruction and carried with it connotations of induction into the Christian faith. RE has been very different to this for some time. It is an inclusive and wide-ranging subject, exploring a range of religious and non-religious worldviews. In the UK, parents still have the right to withdraw their children from RE on the grounds that they wish to provide their own religious education. (School Standards and Framework Act 1998 S71 (3)). This will be the parents' responsibility. Students aged 18 or over have the right to withdraw

themselves from RE. Here at Pottery all requests for withdrawal will be discussed to ensure parents and guardians fully understand the aims and values of RE before honouring this right.

The role of the RE coordinator

All teachers are responsible for ensuring that they deliver the appropriate areas of the R.E. scheme of work based upon the Derbyshire and Derby City Agreed Syllabus 2020 – 2025 to the children they are teaching.

The coordinator will:

- monitor the delivery, progression, continuity and understanding of R.E. within and across year groups
- monitor the teaching of R.E. on a two-year cycle.
- discuss the scheme of work and its delivery with staff as and when necessary.
- where possible, assist staff in the delivery of an area of R.E. in which they lack confidence.
- when necessary and possible, attend in-service training and be responsible for disseminating relevant information to teaching/non-teaching staff.
- plan and deliver in-service training to staff as necessitates.
- ensure that resources are accessible to staff.

Review

The Headteacher and staff will review this policy regularly. Any amendments will be presented to the Governing Body for their approval.