



Policy for Religious Education

In a safe and caring Christian setting, through inspirational teaching, challenge, awe and wonder, this school's goal is to enable all children to become confident life-long learners to achieve their full potential. *Mission Statement*

Our school ethos

At Rauceby Church of England Primary School our ethos reflects basic Christian values such as respect for self and others, kindness, fairness and forgiveness. It is centred on a belief that each child is an individual and valued. At Rauceby we encourage each child to strive to be the very best that they can be.

The nature of Religious Education

Religious education (RE) is a compulsory subject and forms part of the national curriculum. In all maintained schools, RE must be taught according to either the locally agreed syllabus or in accordance with the school's designated religion or religious denomination, or in certain cases the trust deed relating to the school.

Parents have the right to withdraw their pupils from RE. We suggest, however, that parents first meet with the headteacher to discuss their concerns. If the matter cannot be resolved, parents need to apply to the governing body annually in writing to withdraw their child from RE lessons. The governing body will then make arrangements with the headteacher for the child(ren) to be supervised or engaged in another activity during this time.

Teachers also can exercise their right to withdraw from teaching RE. Should this occur, the class is taught by another staff member as part of our planning, preparation and assessment (PPA) cover arrangements so that the class entitlement to the curriculum is ensured.

Aims and Objectives

At Rauceby Church of England Primary School we want children to enjoy learning about religion because it is taught in a stimulating and interesting way that arouses their curiosity and develops positive skills and attitudes.

Planning for religious education is based on the two attainment targets in the agreed syllabus:

Learning about religions – includes enquiry into and investigation of the nature of religion, its key beliefs and teachings, practices, impact 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.

Learning from religions – 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.

RE provokes questions which become increasingly challenging as pupils move up through the school. The meaning of life. Beliefs. The self. Issues of right and wrong. What it means to be human.

In addressing these key questions we aim to:

Help each child develop a sense of identity and belonging, thereby helping them flourish within their class, their school and their community and helping them to become citizens of a diverse society.

Encourage each child to explore and develop their own beliefs in the light of what they learn. Help pupils to develop the capacity to form

Foster the personal reflection and the spiritual development of each child, teaching pupils to develop self-respect and respect for others, including those of different faiths and beliefs, thereby helping to challenge prejudice and building resilience to anti-democratic or extremist narratives.

Supporting pupils in considering their social responsibilities, thereby helping develop empathy, generosity and compassion towards others.

Implementation

Religious Education is based on the Lincolnshire agreed syllabus.

We provide RE for all pupils registered at the school. Although there is no statutory time allocation, we aim to devote approximately 5% of the curriculum timetable to the teaching and learning of RE and try to incorporate strong links with the wider curriculum. The scheme of work for RE includes the requirements of the agreed syllabus. This is reflected in the long term curriculum plan for the school. RE is taught in half-termly units in a combination of religion-based and thematic topics.

To help make RE relevant and interesting to our pupils, we have developed links with local religious communities and places of worship. Visits to places of worship and other RE-related venues are encouraged as an important part of developing a child's understanding of the role religion plays in communities. Before all visits, staff will carry out a formal risk assessment. Staff will ensure that the context of the learning during the visit will not undermine a child's own faith or challenge their belief. Permission will be sought from parents/carers for each child to attend the visit. We acknowledge the sensitivity that some families may have with regard to their child visiting another place of worship and staff will ensure that they do all they can to assure parents and encourage pupil participation.

Monitoring and evaluation

Rauceby Primary School ensures that the quality of RE teaching in our school is continually improved by making provision for continuing professional development (CPD) for our RE co-ordinator when requested.

Responsibility for quality assuring content and delivery of the programme of religious education rests with the headteacher. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school. The school will assess its implementation and effectiveness.

Review

The efficacy of the policy will be discussed annually as part of the governors' rolling programme of reviews.