



Curriculum Policy – Religious Education

At Cedars Primary School, teaching and learning is based upon a language rich thematic curriculum where pupils are exposed to a range of experiences to enhance their knowledge, understanding and long-term memory.

As a result, pupils at Cedars are confident, aspirational, articulate learners who are ready for the next stage of education.

Subject Intent

In school, the teaching of RE will support pupils in their own search for meaning and purpose in life. This will help pupils develop their own beliefs, values and ideals. To deliver the teaching of RE we will use The Blackburn Diocesan Syllabus 'Questful RE' as our scheme of work, making meaningful links with other subjects of the curriculum. The teaching of RE using Questful RE will provide a safe and secure environment for pupils to challenge prejudices and misconceptions. Our aim is to encourage tolerance and respect for themselves and for other people and encourage pupils to recognize and celebrate diversity in society.

The aims of RE:

- Pupils and teachers to talk openly and freely about their own personal beliefs and practice
- Pupils to make excellent and appropriate progress in their knowledge and understanding of Christianity;
- Pupils from Christian families to talk openly about their beliefs and values in lessons and to grow in their faith;
- Pupils from all faith backgrounds to understand and be encouraged in their faith;
- Pupils with no religious background to be given an insight into what it means to be a person of faith;
- Pupils of all backgrounds to have a safe place to explore the ultimate questions and challenges of life in today's society;
- Provide a multi-sensory, enquiry based syllabus;
- Children to go on a QUEST to explore religions, the world we live in, communities, neighbours and values.

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development

RE plays an important role, along with all other curriculum areas, particularly PSHE, in promoting social awareness and understanding in our children. We encourage our pupils to ask questions about the world and to reflect on their own beliefs, values and experiences. We include and promote British Values, ensuring that children are aware of their rights and responsibilities as UK citizens. The teaching of RE aims to develop an awareness and tolerance of living in a multi-cultural society and being mutually respectful towards the beliefs of others.

Through RE in our school, we provide opportunities for spiritual development. Children consider and respond to questions concerning the meaning and purpose of life.

Subject Impact

Our Religious Education Curriculum is high quality, well thought out and is planned to demonstrate progression of knowledge. In addition, we measure the impact of our curriculum through the following methods:

- A reflection on standards achieved against the planned end points
- A celebration of learning for each term which demonstrates progression across the school shared with the Governing Body
- Festivals and celebrations discussed during Collective Worship
- Pupil discussions and Pupil Voice about their learning.
- A Questful Learning map for each unit, as children are on a quest to find answers

Teachers will encourage parental involvement, through the setting of homework (practical or paper-based tasks, key vocabulary on knowledge organisers or talk homework) where it is appropriate, to allow further discussion of concepts and ideas that have been taught

Subject Implementation

Religious Education must be provided for all registered pupils in state – funded schools in England. It is a necessary part of a ‘broad and balanced curriculum.’ As RE must be taught to ‘all registered pupils at the school’, it includes pupils in Reception, but not those in Nursery. The religious education curriculum forms an important part of our school's spiritual, moral and social teaching. Religious Education is reflected in Collective Worship. Although Religious Education and Collective Worship naturally compliment and enrich one another, they will be managed separately. Our school curriculum for RE meets the requirements of The Education Act (2002), The School Standards and Framework Act (1998) and RE Non Statutory Guidance (2010). The legal requirements are that Religious Education must be provided for all registered pupils in full time education except those withdrawn at the request of their parents. If such a request for withdrawal is made, the Headteacher will explore the reasons for the request and seek to arrive at an accommodation as it may be that only some elements of Religious Education or Worship are objected to.

Early Years Foundation Stage

In Nursery, RE is non – statutory, but teachers incorporate RE material into children’s activities. Religious Education is statutory from Reception onwards, as the children begin developing their knowledge, skills and understanding of the world exploring Christianity and other world faiths.

KS1 and KS2

As the children move into Key Stage 1, they will build on their earlier work, using the Blackburn Diocesan Syllabus ‘Questful RE’ as a guideline for teaching and learning. Strong links will be made with the teaching of English, stories, plays and poems from the Bible and other religious and moral sources will be shared with the children. In Key Stage 2, the children will learn about Christianity and other major world faiths, as set out in the syllabus. This will support the development of speaking and listening, writing and for the development of

thinking and reasoning skills.

Special Educational Needs

Religious Education is taught to all children, whatever their ability, in accordance with the school curriculum policy of providing a broad and balanced education to all children. Teachers provide learning opportunities matched to the needs of children with learning difficulties.

Teaching and learning

Teachers will use the Blackburn Diocesan Syllabus 'Questful RE', supported by an appropriate range of teaching and learning resources (e.g. ICT, artefacts and books), to support the teaching of Religious Education, to develop the knowledge, skills and understanding of every child, ensuring that all pupils - including NtoE, Pupil Premium and those with SEND – achieve high standards for their ability and make appropriate progress. Teachers will regularly use class books and individual books to record children's work. On every appropriate occasion, teachers will use first-hand experience: visits, visitors, artefacts and the local and wider environment, to engage children's interest and imagination. Teachers may invite visitors (e.g. faith leaders, community representatives) into school or take children on RE trips (e.g. places of worship), to encourage a deeper thinking and awareness and develop an interest in, an understanding of, and respect for, the different faiths. Through open questioning and responses, children will be encouraged to think about the role of faith, example and belief in their own lives, by asking questions, empathising with others and expressing meaning.

Pupils will explore attitudes of:

- **self-awareness**, by becoming increasingly aware that our choices and behaviour are influenced by what we value
- **respect for all**, by developing an understanding of what is valued by others and how that value is expressed
- **open mindedness**, by engaging in positive discussion and debate about how faith can be based on belief rather than personal experience
- **appreciation and wonder**, by developing their capacity to respond to events and ideas that are beyond explanation.

Review Approval Body:

Date Approved:

Next Review Date: (2 years' time)

Subject Leader: Teresa Oxendale

