

Roseberry Primary and Nursery School

Religious Education **Policy**



Headteacher: Mrs E. Dunn
Chair of Governors: Mr J. Anderson

Date: September 2022
Date for Review: September 2023

Introduction

Religious Education makes a vital contribution to the education of our children at Roseberry Primary and Nursery school.

It enables teachers to foster children's' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and engages children in learning about and learning from religion. Through the study of beliefs and practices children are given the opportunity to think about ultimate questions that concern all of humanity. Children are able to develop empathy, respect, evaluation and critical thinking.

RE lessons play a key role in enhancing the school ethos by fostering attitudes such as personal reflection, empathy, understanding, acceptance and consideration. RE contributes to PSHE and multi-cultural awareness.

The Legal Position of RE

The 1988 Education Reform Act provides a legal framework for the provision of Religious Education and states that Religious Education must be taught to all pupils aged 5-18.

At Roseberry Primary we follow the Durham legally adopted Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education (2020), which is a statutory order. In accordance with the 1988 Act, the Agreed Syllabus reflects the fact that religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, whilst taking account of teachings and practices of other principal world religions represented in Great Britain. At Roseberry Primary children at Key Stage 1 focus on Christianity and Buddhism, and at Key Stage 2 children focus on Christianity, Hinduism and Judaism.. Dimensions from other faiths may be included. Year 6 will explore Islam in the community. Some aspects of world religions are included in the topics delivered at the Foundation stage.

Legally, the Agreed Syllabus must be non-denominational and must not be designed to convert pupils or to urge particular religion or religious belief on pupils. We at Roseberry Primary treat all belief systems with respect and encourage children to do the same.

Importance of RE

The main aims of Religious Education at Roseberry Primary are to:

- develop pupils' **knowledge and understanding** of Christianity, of other principal religions, other religious traditions and worldviews that offer answers to questions
- provoke **challenging questions and critical thinking** about the ultimate meaning and purpose of life, beliefs about God, the self, the nature of reality, issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human.
- offer opportunities for **personal reflection** and spiritual development, deepening the understanding of the significance of religion in the lives of others - individually, communally and cross –culturally
- promote **mutual respect and tolerance** in a diverse society and therefore contributes to pupils' personal development and well-being and to community cohesion.

Withdrawal

Under the terms of 1988 Education Reform Act, parents have the right to withdraw their children wholly or partly from Religious Education. It is the responsibility of the school to make adequate alternative provision for children withdrawn from Religious Education.

Whilst we respect the rights of parents to withdraw their children from religious education, the Headteacher would be very happy to meet with parents who have concerns, discuss the nature of religious education in the school and consider arrangements.

Organisation and Management of RE

RE lessons take place in a variety of ways depending upon the religion and class topic. They can be:

- once a week for one hour / blocks of time
- once every half term for 6-8 hour / blocks of time

There is a Religious Education coordinator (Mrs Nunn) in the school who prepares the Action Plan and reviews, monitors and evaluates provision and practice of Religious Education. The school will additionally ensure that governors are informed of any developments and changes to provision

in Religious Education and amendments to school policy are made available for discussion and approval. Class teachers will report verbally to parents twice per year at parents evening about RE. They will additionally present a written report to parents once per year about RE.

Equal Opportunities

Religious Education is open to all children at Roseberry Primary School regardless of religion, race, culture, gender and ability. Through the teaching of Religious Education children learn to:

- become aware that Britain is multi-religious and multi-cultural
- challenge inequalities and discrimination based on race, religion, culture, gender, ability or socio-economic groups
- respect themselves and be sensitive to the needs of others

Planning and Delivery

A Long-Term Plan for Religious Education has been produced by the Co-Ordinator. This meets the requirements of the Agreed Syllabus (please see attached).

As part of RE learning we give opportunities for children / students to meet people from faith communities, including, where appropriate, those who do not hold a religious faith. We invite visitors to school to talk about aspects of their beliefs and also take students to visit, among others, Durham cathedral, a Gurdwara and our local church.

The school will also keep parents informed of any developments in relation to Religious Education and make the school policy for RE available if requested. The RE policy will also be available to view on the school website.

Written by P Nunn

September 2022

Review date-September 2023