

Oakley Lower School

Religious Education Policy

The Education Reform Act (1988) requires that Religious Education should be taught to all pupils in full time education except for those withdrawn at the wish of their parents. It states that Religious Education should be taught in accordance with an agreed syllabus.

Rationale

We believe that Religious Education will contribute educationally to the development of pupils as individuals and members of society by developing a reflective approach to life in the context of a growing understanding of the experiences, attitudes, beliefs and religious practices of humanity.

Aims

- To contribute to the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils.
- To help children to acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of the origins, context and development of Christianity.
- To enable children to develop knowledge and understanding of the stories, beliefs, traditions and celebrations of other religions.
- To enable children to develop a positive attitude to self and others respecting their right to hold different beliefs of their own.
- To help children to develop awareness of and respond to the fundamental questions of life raised by human experiences and how religious teachings can relate to them.
- To help children to reflect on their own beliefs, values and experiences.
- To help children to foster a reflective approach to life.
- To enable children to determine their own place in the community and to feel a sense of belonging.
- To contribute to pupils' personal, social and health education.

Policy

The RE programme at Oakley Lower School is based on the Bedford Borough, Bedfordshire Central and Luton Agreed Syllabus. The children will be encouraged to develop their understanding of religious and human experience by:-

- Direct experience – visits, visitors, handling artefacts, celebrating festivals, cooking, watching and listening to video and DVDs.
- Listening and responding to stories
- Looking at books and photographs
- Drama and role play, discussion and debate
- Music, singing
- Class and small group discussions
- Recording – writing, models, art and craft
 - Linking with assemblies.

Organisation

Curricular guidelines are planned to each key stage, in topics.

The areas of learning are:

- What does it mean to belong,
- Who is a Christian and what do they believe,

- Who is Jewish and what do they believe,
- Who is a Muslim and what do they believe,
- How and why do we celebrate special times,
- What makes some places special,
- What can we learn from sacred books and stories
- , How do we show we care for others,
- Why should we care for the earth,
- Who is an inspiring person, (Key Stage one).
- The areas of learning in Key Stage Two are:-
- Where, how and why do people worship,
- How and why do believers show their commitments during the journey of life
- How should we live and who can inspire us,
- What are the deeper meaning of the festivals
- How and why does a Christian follow Jesus,
- What do the religions teach about the natural world and why should we care for it,
- What does it mean to be a Jew
- What does it mean to be a Sikh..

These strands spiral through the school's RE programme and ensure that a broad and balanced RE programme is provided and that there is continuity and progression between key stages.

Assessment Recording and Reporting

Assessment at OLS is an integral part of planning. Experiences and opportunities in RE are recorded and pupil progress is reported to parents annually.

Evidence is collected by:-

- Observing the pupils at work, individually or in groups
- Questioning and listening to pupils
- Assessing written work produced by them
- Evaluating relevant displays

Resources

A range of resources is being developed to support the RE programme.

These include:

Books for study skills, Teachers' resource books, Posters, Videos, DVDs, Artefacts, Websites.

These are kept in boxes in the staffroom or in the RE cupboard. There are a large number of Bible stories and books on different religions and festivals on the shelves in the library.

The resource centre at St Marks' Church is also used.

Role of RE coordinator

To assist staff on the development and progression of themes

Assisting staff in locating resources

Ordering, distributing and organising resources

Arranging visits/visitors

Liaising with local ministers of religion and other relevant contacts

Monitor and evaluate children's progress

Success Criteria

Schemes of work followed throughout the school

Links established between RE, PSHCE and other subjects

Children have developed a positive attitude to self and others, and feel a sense of belonging.

Children are able to reflect on their own beliefs, values and experiences.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Coordinator to monitor plans and pupils' work.

Report to staff and governors

Right of Withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw pupils from Religious Education lessons.

November 2011
Review date November 2014