



Religious Education Policy & Scheme

Accepted	Review Date
June 2015	June 2017

Rationale

As a school we aim to develop the holistic needs of our pupils. The teaching of religious education (R.E.) is central to this commitment.

R.E. well taught is academically stimulating but it also develops character traits, helps pupils make ethical decisions and allows them to understand their world in a fuller way. They are allowed to develop their own spiritual perspective on their experiences and those of others in the past and in the present, including those in the local community.

As a school we are striving to pursue opportunities for Shared Education. We believe this requires pupils to have a firm understanding of the role of religion in their own tradition. With this context they will have the knowledge, confidence and respect of faith to explore the similarities and difference of other traditions both locally and globally. The development of R.E., therefore, is a crucial element of our school's strategic development.

Whitehouse Primary School has a welcoming Christian ethos. We believe that our school is enriched by the values and actions that flow from our core beliefs. It must be stressed that our ethos is embracing to families of all Christian traditions, other religions and those of no stated faith. Therefore, our teaching of R.E. is more than an academic opportunity but it is a means to build a caring and cohesive community.

As a school we have decided to parallel our collective worship with our R.E. curriculum. Our three year rolling teaching curriculum, which links with weekly assemblies, allows for continuity and a broad range of study. It also, however, brings a whole school community experience of R.E. The partnership enriches the curriculum and collective worship.

Aims

We hope to provide high quality R.E. learning for our pupils. This teaching is underpinned by some key agreed aims.

1. Our pupils will have a broad range of biblical and religious knowledge.
2. The pupils will be able to apply their biblical knowledge to their local and wider contexts.
3. Pupils' will be equipped to make decisions that improve their happiness and health.
4. Our school will be a more positive and caring environment.
5. By understanding faith, and its outworking, pupils will appreciate its role in society.
6. Pupils will be empowered to challenge negative attitudes towards the faith of others.
7. Our pupils will embrace respect and reconciliation in our local and wider society.
8. Pupils will enjoy learning via R.E. and be encouraged to have a desire to find out more.
9. Flexible thinking and creativity will be fostered.
10. Literacy and numeracy skills of pupils will be improved via their application.

Our Values & Mission Statement

This policy document and the associated scheme are not written in isolation. They were both developed in the context the school's values and the resulting mission statement.

Values	Contribution of R.E. Policy and Scheme
To be a Happy & Healthy Environment	Our approach to R.E. is embedded in the context of community and in promoting a caring ethos.
To develop Skilled Learners & Flexible Thinkers	R.E. teaching is to be stimulating. Learners will be asked to form opinions, think critically and apply their learning to real life contexts.
To value Partnerships both Locally & Globally	Biblical teaching will be applied to pupils' homes, our school, the community and globally. The protection of minorities, challenging discrimination and our responsibility to make the world a better place will be stressed. We are committed to pursue Shared Education opportunities. The teaching of a R.E. will be a catalyst for challenging negative attitudes, developing respect and reconciliation.
To inspire High Aspirations and Achievements	The potential of every child will be celebrated. Their creativity and uniqueness will be explored.

Mission Statement	Contribution of R.E. Policy and Scheme
Care & Wellbeing Central	High Level of Compliance - Developing confidence and community.
Health & Sport Promoted	High Level of Compliance - Strong links to emotional and physical health.
Involving Parents & Community	High Level of Compliance - School service, charity work and church visits.
Learning & Teaching Focused	High Level of Compliance - Quality learning and teaching for all pupils.
Developing Technology & Creativity	High Level of Compliance - An ideal area for promoting new approaches.
Raising Expectations & Standards	High Level of Compliance - Pupils' potential and value celebrated.
Excellence & Innovation Pursued	High Level of Compliance - A vehicle for promoting Shared Education.
Networking Locally & Globally	High Level of Compliance - Linking pupils with other locally and globally.

This is an abridged version of the policy. A full copy is available upon request from the school office.