



‘Inspiring Confident Learners, Reflecting Christian Values’

**‘Shine as lights in the world and love as Jesus loves us.’**

*“Teach the children how to live and they will remember it all of their lives” (proverbs Ch22:V6)*

## **Religious Education Policy:**

### **Definition:**

Religious Education (RE) enables children to investigate and reflect on some of the most fundamental questions asked by people. At Filey CE Nursery and Infants Academy we develop the children's knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other world faiths. Children reflect on what it means to have a faith and to develop their own spiritual knowledge and understanding. We help the children to learn from religions (exploring and responding to human experience) as well as about religions (developing knowledge).

### **Introduction:**

The teaching of RE allows children both to learn about religious traditions and to reflect on what the religious ideas and concepts mean to them. Our teaching enables children to extend their own sense of values and promotes their spiritual growth and development. We encourage children to think about their own views and values in relation to the themes and topics studied in the RE curriculum. The RE curriculum forms an important part of our school's spiritual, moral and social teaching. It enables the school to inspire confident learners and reflect our Christian values of Community, Compassion and Friendship. It also promotes education for citizenship. Children are encouraged to build on their own experiences and extend their knowledge and understanding of religious traditions.

Strong links with St. John's Church in Filey and with the clergy of the Parish enriches their experiences and helps to develop their religious thinking. Direct experience comes from organised visits to local places of worship and visits from representatives of local religious groups who come into school and talk to the children or lead collective worship. Volunteers from St John's Church also run a lunchtime 'Wonder Time' group and lead an 'Open the Book' Collective Worship. A programme of study sets out what children should be taught and lesson content is based upon the North Yorkshire LA's Agreed Syllabus for RE and Understanding Christianity. Lesson content may be adapted to meet the needs of individual classes or to make links with other subject areas.

### **Aims and purposes of Religious Education:**

RE at Filey CE Nursery and Infants Academy provides children with the opportunity to:

- Learn from and about religion, so that they can understand the world around them.
- Ask and answer challenging questions about the world and to reflect on their own beliefs, values and experiences.
- Develop an awareness and tolerance of living in a multi-cultural society and being mutually respectful towards the beliefs of others, preparing them for adult life, employment and life-long learning.

### **How Religious Education supports our School Aims:**

RE enables children to develop values and attitudes that support our school aims. In particular children work both independently, encouraging them to be independent learners, and with others, listening to others' ideas and treating these with respect. They take pride in, and celebrate their achievements and the achievements of others by reviewing their work, experiences and knowledge, and recognising the progress made in reaching that result. The subject enables children to develop a respect for each other, to develop their own

cultural awareness and understanding, and appreciate the value of differences and similarities. They develop an understanding that all people are equal regardless of age, race, gender or ability. RE at Filey CE Nursery and Infant School enables the school to inspire confident learners and reflect Christian values.

### **Curriculum balance and time**

Christianity is the major religion studied in each year group and is at least 50% of the RE curriculum time. EYFS teach about Christianity and other religions which emerge from the EYFS Framework. In KS1, Christianity and Islam are taught. RE is taught for a minimum of 36 hours per year at KS1. Collective worship is not considered as curriculum time for RE.

### **Cross-Curricular Opportunities:**

Religious education supports the development of general educational abilities such as literacy, empathy and the ability to express thoughts, feelings and personal beliefs. RE also makes a major contribution to pupils' SMSC development. It addresses issues which arise in a range of subjects.

### **Literacy:**

Religious Education contributes significantly to the teaching of Literacy within our school by actively promoting the skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening and drama. Children are encouraged to write their own prayers.

### **Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Citizenship:**

Through our RE lessons, we teach the children about the values and moral beliefs that underpin individual choices of behaviour. We promote the values and attitudes required for citizenship by teaching respect for others and the need for personal responsibility. In general, by promoting tolerance and understanding of other people, we enable children to appreciate what it means to be positive members of society.

### **Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development:**

Through teaching RE in our school, we provide opportunities for spiritual development. We help the children to recognise the difference between right and wrong through the study of moral and ethical questions. We enhance their social development by helping them to build a sense of identity in a multicultural society. Children explore issues of religious faith and values and, in so doing they develop their knowledge and understanding of the cultural context of their own lives.

### **Health and Safety:**

Health and safety issues may arise in religious education on a number of occasions for example, when pupils:

- Handle artefacts
- Consume food
- Visit places of worship

Teachers will conform to guidelines in the school's health and safety policy in these circumstances.

### **Progression in Religious Education:**

We plan our RE curriculum in accordance with the North Yorkshire Agreed Syllabus and Understanding Christianity. We ensure that the topics studied in RE build upon prior learning. We offer opportunities for children of all abilities to develop their skills and knowledge in each unit. We ensure that the planned progression built into each unit offers the children an increasing challenge as they move through school. In the Foundation Stage, RE is linked to understanding the world and personal, social and emotional development sections of the Early Years Curriculum. We build on children's own previous experiences, beginning with those brought into Nursery.

## **Equal Opportunities:**

We believe that it is important for all children to experience a rich and varied RE Curriculum. We recognise the fact that all classes in our school have children of widely differing abilities, and that the children have different experiences of religion. We provide suitable learning opportunities for all the children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child, and providing a wide range of activities to address all learning styles. We use teaching assistants to support the work of individuals or groups of children where relevant and available.

## **Role of the Co-ordinator**

- To lead the development of RE in school and ensure that all pupils receive their legal entitlement of religious education.
- To provide guidance to individual members of staff and ensure that all teachers know what should be taught in RE.
- To keep up to date with local, diocesan and national developments in RE and disseminate relevant information
- To ensure there are rigorous assessment systems in place to enable teachers and pupils to gauge progress and attainment in RE.
- To review and monitor planning to ensure that RE is being taught effectively throughout school.
- To be responsible for the organisation and maintenance of RE resources.

## **Assessment, Recording and Reporting**

Assessment in religious education will:

- Seek to identify development in the different areas of learning in the subject and not only in the acquisition of factual knowledge.
- Recognise the range of skills and attitudes which the subject seeks to develop.
- Use well defined criteria for marking and assessment which identify progress and achievement as well as effort, following the school's marking policy.
- Enable effective tracking of pupil progress to identify areas for development in pupil's knowledge and understanding, as well as whole school areas for development.
- Enable effective reporting to parents.

## **Legal Requirements**

Religious Education must be provided for all pupils except those withdrawn at their parents' request. As Religious Education must be taught to 'all registered pupils at the school', it includes pupils in reception classes, but not those in nursery classes. We note the Human Right of parents to withdraw their children from RE. The school must comply with any request from a parent to withdraw their child and parents are not required to give their reasons for wanting to do so. However, in view of the importance placed on RE as a core subject in a church school, we would hope that all children that are admitted will participate fully in RE. Requests for full or partial withdrawal from RE should be made in writing to the head teacher and a record kept of them.

Reviewed – 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Next Review date – January 2024