

RE Policy



The Livingstone Road Primary Federation adopts the principles and procedures of this Policy for both Schools

Review Cycle: Annual
Last Reviewed: 6th February 2019

Responsible for Review: Executive Headteacher
Next Review Date: February 2020

Policy Statement

The agreed main aims of RE are:

- To enable pupils to understand what it means to belong to a religious tradition.
- To enable pupils to understand that religious belief can be expressed in a variety of ways, such as art, dance, drama, mime and music.
- To develop pupils' understanding that religion is about what people do as well as what they believe, and how those beliefs impact upon relationships, lifestyles and values.
- To ensure that pupils are able to recognise that each individual religion has its own special beliefs, values, sacred texts, places and forms of worship, rites of passage, celebrations and symbols.
- To enable pupils to develop spiritually, morally, socially and culturally.
- To develop important attitudes of respect, sensitivity, open-mindedness and self-esteem.

The Legal Position

The Education Act 1996 states that the curriculum for every maintained school shall include provision for religious education for all registered pupils. The schools Standards and Framework Act 1998 states that parents have the right to require that children should not attend religious education. In Community, Foundation and Voluntary schools without a religious character, religious education must be in accordance with the Agreed Syllabus. At both Sylvan Infant School and Branksome Heath Junior School, parents are informed of their right to withdraw their children from RE. They should contact the Head of School in writing if they choose to do this.

The Agreed Syllabus

The Livingstone Road Primary Federation of Sylvan Infant School and Branksome Heath Junior School follows the Poole Agreed Syllabus for RE: Revisions and is taught through 'The Discovery Scheme.' This syllabus is in line with the government requirements (Circular 1/94) that RE should:

- reflect the fact that religious traditions in Britain are, in the main, Christian while taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Britain.
- not be denominational.
- not seek to convert pupils or urge a particular religion or religious belief on pupils.
- not be confined to information about religious traditions and practices, but extend to wider issues of morality and the impact religious beliefs have on people's lives.



Organisation

RE is taught through discrete lessons following 'The Discovery Scheme' and enhanced by the children's experience in Collective Worship. Consolidation of RE teaching is carried out within the PSHCE curriculum which is also taught weekly through Circle Time and directed tasks. External speakers may also enrich the curriculum provision.

Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting

Governors and Head of Schools have a responsibility to ensure this policy is evident in practice. Agreed descriptions of good teaching and learning are used in the monitoring process. Teachers monitor pupils' progress during the topics and report to parents annually.

Role of the Subject Leader

To develop and maintain the quality of RE teaching throughout the school by:

- Promoting good practice throughout the school – support and extend good practice among colleagues in their classes.
- Setting a good example of classroom practice.
- Monitoring planning of RE for the whole school.
- Providing guidance to all members of staff.
- Maintaining an up to date stock of resources and equipment and making available to staff.
- Monitoring and evaluation RE in school – know what is going on!
- Providing in-service and professional development liaison.
- Celebrating good practice in RE in school.

Differentiation

We aim to encourage all pupils to reach their full potential through the provision of varied opportunities. We recognise that our curriculum planning must allow pupils to gain a progressively deeper understanding and competency as they move through our school. This is met through the lesson planning, use of questioning and teaching and learning strategies.

Equal Opportunities

All children will be given equal access to RE irrespective of race, gender, creed, level of ability or nationality. Mutual respect and tolerance for all cultures will be promoted and parents wishes taken into consideration when planning RE activities.

Health and Safety

Health and Safety regulations in class-based lessons apply as for any other subject. For outside visits there will always be the required pupil/adult ratio. The Health and Safety Guidelines produced by the Borough of Poole will be adhered to by all staff at all times. Parents will be advised should there be any specific requirements for outings/visits.