



Hadley Wood School Religious Education Policy May 2016

Principles of Learning and Teaching in Religious Education

Religious Education enables children to investigate and reflect on some of the most fundamental questions asked by people. At Hadley Wood Primary School, we deliver a broadly Christian curriculum whilst also developing the children's knowledge and understanding of the major world faiths, and addressing the fundamental questions in life. Children reflect on what it means to have a faith and to develop their own spiritual knowledge and understanding. We help the children learn from religions as well as about religions.

The aims of religious education at Hadley Wood School are to help children:

- Develop an awareness of spiritual and moral issues in life experiences
- Develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity as well as other major world religions and value systems found in Britain
- Develop an understanding of what it means to be committed to a religious tradition
- Be able to reflect on their own experiences and to develop a personal response to the fundamental questions of life
- Develop an understanding of religious traditions and to appreciate the cultural differences in Britain today
- Develop investigative and research skills and to enable them to make reasoned judgements about religious issues
- Have respect for other peoples' views and to celebrate the diversity in society
- Understand and develop fundamental British values of respect and tolerance

Planning and Delivery of Religious Education

The Religious Education curriculum forms an important part of our school's spiritual, moral, and social teaching. It also promotes education for citizenship. Our school RE curriculum is based on the London Borough of Enfield Agreed SACRE Syllabus (a copy of which can be made available if requested) and meets all of the requirements set out within this document.

Hadley Wood School is an accredited Values-based Education School and has an agreed set of school values selected by pupils, parents, staff and governors. In RE, as in all subject areas, we aim to include the values in our teaching and discussions. This allows children to focus on the value of the months and learn in a respectful manner which is fundamental to the study of religions and religious practices.

We base our teaching and learning style in RE on the key principle that good teaching in 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 and articulate these in an open environment of mutual respect and tolerance of others' traditions and cultures.

We are proud to have links with all major religions. We have organised visits to local places of worship and invited local religious groups into school to talk to the children. Parents and children are also encouraged to share their own religious beliefs in assemblies and during our multicultural week (usually in October). This is a delightful way to celebrate all of the cultures and religions that make up Hadley Wood School.

Statutory Requirements

Religious Education and a daily act of worship must be included in the school curriculum as required by the Education Reform Act 1988. It also states that a syllabus should *“reflect the fact that the religious traditions of Great Britain are, in the main, Christian while taking account of other religions in Great Britain.”*

Parents are allowed to withdraw their child from Religious Education classes if they so wish, however, it is intended that the RE provided at Hadley Wood School (including the collective act of worship and guest speakers) is inclusive and respectful of the integrity of all pupils and staff. Where parents express concern about their child participating in RE lessons, we request that they meet with the Headteacher in order to establish a shared understanding of the statutory requirements, the school's planning and our approach to learning and teaching in RE.

Inclusion

At our school we teach RE to all children, whatever their ability. RE forms part of the school curriculum policy to provide a broad and balanced education to all children. Through our religious education teaching we provide learning opportunities that enable all pupils to make progress. We do this by setting suitable learning challenges and responding to each child's different needs. Tasks are differentiated in order to challenge all pupils appropriately.

Working in Partnership with Parents

We recognise and value the interest, support and involvement of the parents in their children's Religious Education development and keep them up to date with any developments in this area. We actively encourage parents to help their children in learning through discussions and educational visits where possible. We also welcome parents into the classroom or assemblies to discuss their religious beliefs and cultural traditions.

Resources and Training

The school has a range of Religious Education resources appropriate for the teaching of all the major faiths.

The Religious Education Co-ordinator attends RE courses and feeds back relevant information and training to staff. Staff meetings are used to discuss current trends and practices in keeping with the new curriculum.

Co-ordinator Role

The RE Co-ordinator is expected to:

- model outstanding teaching in RE
- ensure all teachers are familiar with the National Curriculum and help them to map and plan lessons based on the Enfield Agreed Syllabus (SACRE)
- prepare, organise and lead INSET where appropriate
- monitor RE learning and teaching, setting targets for the future which include any National/LA initiatives
- Conduct Book Scrutinies to ensure RE learning is evidenced and that progress is being made
- monitor and observe colleagues teaching and planning with a view to identifying the support they need
- attend meetings and courses provided by RE consultants
- provide information for parents in the newsletters
- discuss regularly with the Headteacher the progress of Religious Education in the school

Accepted by the Governing Body: May 2016

Review Date: May 2019