

# HILLINGDON PRIMARY SCHOOL



***“We want everyone at Hillingdon Primary School to be happy, caring and independent.  
Our school is a place where we learn together, doing our best to achieve success.”***

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The teaching of Religious Education is a statutory requirement in all schools and it has equal status with all other subjects.(Ref: 1988 Education Reform Act). At Hillingdon Primary School we acknowledge the important part that R.E. plays in the “wider” curriculum, and in the development of the whole child. Staff will be encouraged to have an enthusiastic involvement in their teaching of R.E. and to see it as an important dimension of human life.

We live in a multi-cultural society, where Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism, together with other faiths, have an influence on the life of those around us. In Religious Education, our role is to recognise all faith communities, in particular Christianity, and to teach for knowledge and understanding, rather than belief. We also recognise that many people do not align themselves to a particular faith but may still enjoy taking part in cultural traditions and festivals.

### **AIMS**

In the teaching of R.E. we aim:

1. To enable pupils to explore and to come to an understanding of the nature of religious beliefs and practices and their importance in the lives of believers.
2. To give pupils the opportunity to develop, continue in, or come to their own beliefs and values for life.
3. To provide them with the appropriate skills required for learning about religions and to foster positive attitudes in order to learn from religions.
4. To develop in pupils a respect for the religious beliefs and practices of others.

### **OBJECTIVES**

We expect to achieve the following objectives:

1. To provide pupils with a good basic knowledge of Christianity, with emphasis on the life of Jesus and his teachings.
2. To establish the link between Christianity and our society.
3. To introduce children to the key figures, culture and special celebrations of some of the other world religions: Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism, Judaism.
4. To give opportunities for pupils to reflect upon and to develop their personal experiences of faith and belief.
5. To encourage children to listen, without prejudice, to beliefs that are different from their own;
6. To encourage pupils to develop a clearer and more positive image of their own identity and self worth.
7. To provide opportunities for pupils to respond to spiritual and moral issues.

## **THE LEGAL POSITION OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Our school curriculum for R.E. meets the requirements of the 1988 Educational Reform Act (ERA), which stipulates that R.E. is compulsory for all children, including those in the Foundation Stage. The ERA allows parents to withdraw their children from R.E. should they wish to do so, once they have notified the Head teacher in writing. The ERA states that the R.E. syllabus should reflect that the religious traditions of Great Britain are, in the main, Christian, and that it should, at the same time take account of the teachings and practices of other major world religions. Our school curriculum is based on the Hillingdon Agreed Syllabus (2010) devised by the Hillingdon Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE), and it meets all the requirements set out in that document. The ERA also allows teachers to refuse to teach religious education, but only after they have given due notice of their intention to the school governors. If children are withdrawn from RE by their parents, they will be supervised by the school, though no additional teaching will be provided (as stated in section 71 of the School Standards and Framework Act of 1998.)

## **APPROACHES TO THE TEACHING OF R.E**

### **Time**

It is a requirement that 5% of curriculum time be given to R.E., that is:

30-36 hours per annum in Key Stage 1

38-45 hours per annum in Key Stage 2

This should not include time spent in Collective worship, which is additional to R.E

### **Ability and Inclusion**

With our aims and objectives in mind, our programme of R.E. will take into account the needs and experiences of all our pupils.

Our pupils will need to explore religion, to some extent, through their own experience and feelings. Pupils will also need to be given explicit content and be encouraged to use a more structured style of investigation. This approach will help the pupils to order and connect their own ideas about the nature of religion.

### **Teaching Religious Education to Children with Special Needs**

In our school we teach RE to all children, whatever their ability. The teaching of RE is a vital part of our school curriculum policy, which states that we provide a broad and balanced education for all our children. When teaching RE we ensure that we provide learning opportunities matched to the needs of children with learning difficulties. We take into account the targets set for individual children in their Individual Education Plans (IEPs).

Criteria are available for teachers to identify those pupils who are more able or talented in RE. Provision will be made for them in teachers' planning.

### **Early Years Foundation Stage**

The EYFS Framework does not identify RE as statutory. However it does include statutory standards with regards to a pupil's Personal, Emotional and Social Development that encompasses understanding and respect for different beliefs. In relation to Knowledge and Understanding of the World, pupils should know about their own cultures and those of other people, At Hillingdon Primary we use the RE Stepping Stones as outlined in the Agreed Syllabus to fulfil the above strands.

## **CROSS CURRICULUM THEMES**

Where appropriate and where there are positive advantages to children's learning, R.E. will be taught in conjunction with other subjects. It will be taught as part of the creative curriculum. When necessary, R.E. will be taught discretely.

## **RELIGIOUS ARTEFACTS**

We see the use of religious artefacts as an essential addition to the variety of our pupils' learning experiences. We encourage our staff and pupils to regard them as sacred objects which have a special meaning for their particular religion and pupils will learn to treat them accordingly.

## **VISITORS**

We encourage staff and pupils to invite into school people with a willingness to share their religious beliefs. However, it must be made clear to them before their visit to school that their role is not a proselytising one.

## **VISITS**

We consider that appropriate visits to places of worship can be a valuable addition to our pupils' knowledge of religious beliefs, customs and ceremonies. When organising visits we shall follow the guidelines laid out by the borough in their document 'Visiting Places of Worship'.

It must be made clear to them before their visit to school that their role is not a proselytising one.

## **WITHDRAWAL**

Pupils may be withdrawn from R.E. lessons if parents request this in writing to the Head teacher. Wherever possible this should be after parents have discussed this with the Head teacher.

## **RESOURCES**

We have sufficient resources in our school to be able to teach all our religious education teaching units. We keep resources for religious education in tulip room. There are boxes of artefacts and posters for a variety of religious studies and festivals. The school library has a developing supply of RE topic books and the staff room has a variety of books organised according to religion.

## **ASSESSMENTS AND RECORDING**

We shall follow the guidelines recommended in the Hillingdon Agreed Syllabus. These can be both formal and informal and children will be assessed in two areas:

1. Learning about religions.
2. Learning from religions.

## **REPORTING**

The school will report to parents on the two assessment areas at the end of each academic year as part of the child's annual school report.

## **ROLE OF THE SUBJECT CO-ORDINATOR**

- To ensure the policy is made common practice.
- To disseminate useful teaching material and resources.
- To support other staff with subject knowledge and understanding of the R.E. curriculum.

*Reviewed by the Curriculum Committee on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2010  
Ratified at FGB level on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2010*

Signed: ..... Date:

*Miss Janet Bramwell  
Chair of the Governing Body*