

## The Coombes CE Primary School

*All our policies reflect the Christian ethos of the school with children at heart and in mind*

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

#### Introduction

Religious Education (RE) is part of the statutory curriculum and offers many opportunities to explore the significant and important dimension of what it means to be human. It explores the search for meaning and value in a wondrous but also confusing and sometimes threatening world. RE offers pupils the chance to raise and reflect on perennial questions about life. In doing this, it draws on the rich history of the major religious traditions in Britain, giving prominence to Christianity to reflect the fact that religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian and also reflecting the fact that we are a Church of England Primary School. The Diocese of Oxford appoints three 'Foundation Governors' as part of the school's Governing Body. Our links with the Church go back many years and form part of the fabric of who we are and the values we promote and uphold as a school.

#### Aims and Objectives

The agreed syllabus has three aims for RE:

- 1. To understand the nature, role and influence of religion in the world**
- 2. To pursue personal quest for meaning, purpose and value and encourage reflection**
- 3. To formulate reasoned opinion/argument**

#### Cross-Curricular Opportunities

RE contributes significantly to literacy, PSHE/Citizenship and thinking skills. Each unit has sections on curriculum opportunities and key skills. These provide suggestions about how the unit can contribute to other areas of pupil learning.

In addition to the weekly timetabled RE slots, we offer other opportunities throughout the year to explore and celebrate a variety of festivals and traditions from different faiths and cultures.

#### Assessment, Recording and Reporting

We follow the locally agreed syllabus for RE. Assessment is important in informing our teaching and ensuring learning is focused. We assess progress in RE in line with national standards against two main criteria; ATI Learning about Religion and AT2 Learning from Religion.

A section on RE is part of the annual written report to parents in KS1 and 2. This is covered in the section 'Knowledge and Understanding of the World' in the Foundation Stage Profile.

## **Resources**

We keep a variety of artefacts to support the children's learning and there is a good collection of books and other texts. Visitors to the school are positively encouraged to share their religious faiths, traditions, celebrations and beliefs to support the children's learning as well as visits out of school.

The school subscribes to an educational journal for RE which provides us with the most up to date teaching ideas, initiatives and resources and the RE Co-Ordinator is part of the local RE Support Network where ideas and experiences are shared each term.

## **Inclusion**

We aim to meet the needs of all our children by treating them differently. We promote the individuality and rights of all our pupils irrespective of ethnicity, religion, attainment, age, disability, gender or background.

We start with the children's ideas and provide them with a safe and controlled arena for discussion and reflection.

The subject matter of RE sometimes raises sensitive issues. It is important therefore that staff are aware of and sensitive to the background and personal circumstances of their pupils.

Parents can withdraw their child from RE if they feel their own religious beliefs are in conflict with those of the school. Any parent wishing to do so should come and talk with the Head Teacher.

## **Special Needs**

Children with special educational needs will be encouraged to develop at their own pace. Teachers plan carefully and differentiate tasks and challenges as appropriate to the individual children's needs.

## **Schemes of Work**

These are available on the school network and can be made available via the school office.