



Devon Moors **Federation**

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION & SPIRITUALITY DEVELOPMENT POLICY

June 2016

Chittlehampton C of E (VA) Primary School

Religious Education and Spirituality Development Policy

The importance of religious education in the curriculum

Chittlehampton Primary is a voluntary Aided Church of England School within the Diocese of Exeter. We believe religious education provokes challenging questions about the meaning and purpose of life, beliefs about God, issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human.

RE in Chittlehampton develops children's knowledge and understanding of Christianity (which is taught throughout each key stage of learning) and the other principal religions. (these are Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism).

RE offers children opportunities for personal reflection and spiritual development. It considers the influence of religion on individuals, families, communities and cultures.

RE has two central attainment targets.

AT1 Learning about Religion

AT2 Learning from Religion

In Learning about Religion children learn about different beliefs and teachings, practices and ways of life and how religions express themselves in different ways.

In Learning from Religion children reflect on and consider important questions of identity and belonging (e.g. who and what matters to me?) questions of meaning (e.g. what do people believe about how life began?) and values and commitments (e.g. who and what do I value?)

Religious Education has an important role in the development of the child's understanding and awareness of the world around them. It provides pupils with opportunities to reflect upon human experiences that give rise to fundamental questions of life and death and to consider values and commitments. It helps them to develop an understanding of people's different responses to these questions.

Organisation and Curriculum Entitlement

Christianity is the principle religion studied, as reflecting the foundation of this Church of England primary school.

Children are taught and are asked to reflect on:

- Religious beliefs and teaching
- Religious practices
- Identity and expression
- Values and commitments
- Questions of meaning
- Spirituality and its relationship to the individual.

R.E planning is informed by guidelines and schemes of work from the Diocese of Exeter.

Where parents exercise the right to withdraw their pupils from religious education, they are invited to discuss their decision with the head of school. The head of school will explain the R E policy and discuss the reason for withdrawal and agree alternative arrangements.

Developing spirituality across the school

Spirituality could be described as:

- The search for meaning
- The essence of being
- Respect
- Reflection
- The celebration of difference
- Inner peace
- A sense of awe and wonder.

Ways in which we could help children to value and develop their imagination and ability to reflect constructively could be:

- Valuing children's feelings and their right to express themselves appropriately as an individual
- Giving time for reflection and expression in all areas
- Providing opportunities to use all senses
- Developing individual self-confidence in expressing thoughts in a variety of ways including creatively
- Appreciating that silence can be a means of communication
- Celebrating and sharing gifts and achievement
- Sharing

Spirituality across the curriculum

It is recognized that spirituality cannot be taught but pupils need to be given opportunities to experience spiritual moments wherever they occur. These can be within any subject or at any time.
"Spirituality cannot be taught but is caught."

The contribution of RE to the wider curriculum

While RE has its own distinctive subject matter it does make an important contribution to other aspects of children's learning. The key ones are outlined below.

RE contributes to children's spiritual development by:-

- Discussing and reflecting on questions of meaning and truth such as the origins of the universe, good and evil, life after death, beliefs about God and humanity and values such as justice, honesty and truth.
- Learning about and reflecting on important concepts and experiences such as love, trust, forgiveness, obedience and sacrifice.
- Valuing relationships and developing a sense of belonging.
- Considering how religions and beliefs regard the value and purpose of human beings, the importance of the environment and the significance of emotions such as love, anger, joy, jealousy, happiness and pain.

RE contributes to children's moral development by:-

- Enabling children to value themselves and others.
- Exploring the influence of family, friends and other sources on moral choices.
- Considering what is of ultimate value both to children and within religious traditions.
- Developing an understanding in key beliefs and teachings in religion and values and moral choices.
- Considering ethical issues especially justice which promote racial and religious respect.

- Reflecting on the importance of rights and responsibilities and developing a sense of conscience.

RE contributes to children's social development by:-

- Considering how religious and other beliefs lead to particular actions and concerns.
- Reflecting on the importance of friendship and positive relationships.
- Learning to be respectful of differences in others.

RE contributes to children's cultural development by:-

- Encountering people, stories, artefacts and resources from differing cultures.
- Promoting respect for all, combating prejudice and discrimination.
- Challenging stereotypes of religion and beliefs.
- RE supports our teaching and development of British Values.

RE and the use of language

RE can also make an important contribution to children's use of language by enabling them to:-

- Acquire and develop a specialist vocabulary
- Communicate their ideas with clarity.
- Listen and respond to the views and ideas of others.
- Be inspired by the power and beauty of language.
- Write in different styles such as poetry, diaries and extended writing.
- Highlight their own ideas and those of others.

Assessment

Assessment of children's attainment is made in accordance to Diocese Guidelines.

Conclusion

In essence we are aiming to help our children develop respect and sensitivity for all people and to understand more about the importance of religion in today's world. As a voluntary Aided Church of England School within the Diocese of Exeter we promote these ideas using Christianity as the main, but not sole, source.