St Bede C of E Primary Academy

Religious Education

Rationale

We believe that R.E. is vital in promoting the spiritual, moral, social, cultural and intellectual development of our pupils in helping them gain a greater understanding of themselves and a more sympathetic approach to the needs of others. This enables pupils to be better equipped to cope with the responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

Planning and Delivery

The school has its own scheme of work agreed by the school Governors. The subject is taught for one hour per week or in a block, excluding the Foundation Stage. Christianity and one other principal religion are studied at Key Stage 1, whilst at Key Stage 2 Christianity and two other principal religions are studied.

The school believes that it is important for all children to have access to opportunities for spiritual development and awareness and for understanding of great religious traditions.

A considerable amount of carefully planned R.E. is implicit and is taught by example and discussions of the pupils' own experiences. Skills such as observing, questioning, discussing, evaluating and reflection are encouraged in all parts of the curriculum but are highlighted in R.E. Sensitivity to others and a readiness to listen to others' viewpoints are fostered throughout the curriculum, and especially in R.E., circle time and PSHE/social skills.

At all times R.E. is taught at a level appropriate to the age, ability and experience of the pupils and is therefore accessible to all.

Visits to religious places of worship and inviting visitors into school are integral to the effective teaching of an R.E. topic. Visits should always be carefully planned with staff completing a trip proposal, a risk assessment, a letter to notify parents of the visit and a checklist.

Role of the Co-ordinator Group

- To have a vision of how R.E. might be developed in school;
- to lead whole school planning for the continuing development of R.E. in the school;
- to provide support and advice to colleagues;
- to audit and provide resources necessary to support the teaching of R.E;
- to monitor and co-ordinate the assessment of R.E. in the school;
- to contribute to the school improvement plan by writing an RE action plan;
- to share new developments in R.E., ideas and resources from courses attended.

Foundation Stage

In the Foundation Stage R.E. is covered as part of 'Personal, Social and Emotional Development' and 'Understanding the World'. During this key stage children begin to learn about their own culture and beliefs, and those of other people.

ICT

We believe that appropriate ways of helping pupils to understand religious traditions more effectively can be enhanced with the use of ICT in the following ways:

- Communicating information - using numbers, pictures and words;
- handling information - storing, retrieving and presenting information;
- modelling - using simulations of events to identify changes and trends.

Prayer Corners

To promote spiritual development, each key stage or class will provide an area which can be used as a quiet place for thought and reflection. A thought-provoking 'Question of the Week' will be displayed to encourage the children to be reflective. Children are encouraged to respond to this. The question is displayed near the entrance at reception and is 'tweeted'.

Assessment and Evaluation

Staff evaluate every topic they teach on a half termly basis and record the children's achievements on the class assessment record in line with the school's assessment procedures. This information is vital to the co-ordinator as it identifies any problems with the teaching of the scheme, plus gives a general level at which the class is working. There is also a portfolio of levelled work, which is updated every half term, which tracks individual children through the school.

Evaluation of both teaching and learning is ongoing. Class teachers and the co-ordinator group use this information to shape future planning and delivery of R.E.