

WEST TYTHERLEY C.E.PRIMARY SCHOOL

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

LEGAL REQUIREMENT

The Education Reform Act 1988 states that "The Curriculum for every maintained School shall comprise a basic curriculum which includes provision for R.E. for all registered pupils at the school".

SETTING THE CONTEXT

West Tytherley Primary School comprises of pupils and staff predominately of European Origin, however, all ethnic groups are welcome. The school has a good relationship with the local community and encourages a strong partnership with parents. The School is situated near St. Peter's Church, West Tytherley, which is used for various celebrations during the school year. e.g. Harvest Festival, Christmas Nativity, Year 6 Leavers' Service.

LOCAL EDUCATION AUTHORITY AGREED SYLLABUS

In accordance with the Education Act (1996), the teaching of religious Education at West Tytherley C.E. Primary School follows the LEA Agreed Syllabus "Living Difference". All teaching staff have a personal copy of the document.

AIM AND PURPOSE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The aim of Religious Education is to foster in pupils a reflective approach to life in order to develop their own spirituality. As a Church of England school our priority is for staff, governors and parents to work together to foster a positive, caring and supportive environment based on Christian teaching and principles in which pupils are valued and secure. This process is enriched through the study of living faiths, acknowledging the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian and taking account of the teachings and practices of other principal religions represented in the Country. It is through this approach we aim to help children develop understanding and empathy and respect the right of people to hold and practise beliefs different to their own.

Religious Education aims to develop the children's skills, concepts and attitudes identified in vision and insight.

Religious Education seeks to promote reflection, empathy, comprehension, investigation and interpretation and analysis.

Religious Education also aims to foster attitudes such as curiosity, open-mindedness, self understanding, respect and wonder and appreciation, as these are fundamental to a fair minded study of religions and spiritual dimension of human life.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

R.E. is provided for all pupils regardless of religion, race, disability, gender, ethnicity, age or ability.

Pupils with Special Needs receive support from the class teacher to undertake work which is planned for their level of ability and which allows them to take an effective and valuable role in co-operation group work.

CONTINUITY AND PROGRESSION

We aim to ensure curriculum continuity and learning progression in R.E. throughout the school. R.E. is taught on a two-year cycle and linked with the Christian calendar wherever possible.

We aim to give all pupils opportunities to visit places of worship throughout their time at the school, e.g. local church, Islamic mosque in Southampton, Hindu temple in Southampton. People of other faiths are invited to school to talk to pupils about their faith and beliefs e.g. a parent who is Muslim.

ASSESSMENT, RECORDING AND REPORTING

- Informal assessments are made on occasions when pupils make spontaneous contributions
- The progress pupils make in R.E. is annually reported to parents.
- Assessment, recording and reporting in R.E. is developing alongside other areas of the curriculum.

PARENTAL RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL

In accordance with the Education reform Act 1988 parents have the right to withdraw their children from teaching of R.E. In order to avoid misunderstanding, any parent wishing to withdraw their child may arrange a meeting with the Headteacher in order for him/her to discuss:

- the religious issues about which the parent would object to his/her child being taught
- the practical implications of withdrawal e.g. supervision and alternative activities
- the circumstances in which the school can reasonably be expected to accommodate parental wishes and
- any advanced notice required of such R.E.

It should be noted that when occasions arise in which spontaneous enquiries relating to religion and spiritual issues are raised in other areas of the Curriculum, these cannot constitute R.E. within the meaning of the legislation and a parent could not reasonably insist on a child being withdrawn at such times.

TEACHERS RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL

In accordance with DES circular 3/89 V.1., the legal right of teachers to withdraw from the teaching of R.E. is recognised. Any teacher wishing to withdraw must confirm this in writing to the Headteacher/Governors. In the event of this right being exercised the teaching of R.E. would be implemented by the R.E. Subject Manager/Headteacher after discussion with the Headteacher.

Sept. 1995

6th Review: Spring 2012

Next Review: Spring 2014