



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

### **Agreed Syllabus**

All R.E. taught at Snettisham Primary School is in accordance with the Norfolk Agreed Syllabus 2012.

### **Special Difficulties/Considerations**

Snettisham Primary School caters for the primary age range with approximately 90 pupils on roll. Although many parents of our pupils declare a 'C of E' affiliation on school registration forms, the proportion of our pupils who have regular active involvement as members of a Christian Church is considerably lower.

- a) The physical location of Snettisham means that we are a considerable distance from other faith communities/places of worship. Our pupils' everyday experience of the increasingly pluralistic nature of British society is, therefore, very restricted.
- b) There is limited representation among staff and pupils of any other religions.

### **Implementation**

R.E. is mainly taught through the 'Learning Challenge Curriculum' (Focus Education 2014). The Learning Challenge concept is built around the principle of greater learner involvement in their work. It requires deep thinking and encourages learners to work using a question as the starting point. The 'Learning Challenge' units are chosen carefully to be linked to 'thematic' topics which are covered each term as part of a four year cycle, (see appendix 1: The Four Year Topic Cycle).

Other aspects, such as Bible stories, are explored through: Open the Book, GenR8, BJ Puppets and class assemblies. Literacy and other relevant curriculum areas, such as art, music and dance are used to explore the subject. The coverage is roughly equal to 45 hours per year.

Special events such as celebrations, visitors, themed days (or weeks), and visits to sites of spiritual interest are organised at appropriate times in order to develop further the pupils' knowledge and understanding and enjoyment of the subject.

Parents are given detailed topic webs outlining the areas of study for the term to encourage learning at home.

All policies should be cross referenced with the SEND, Inclusion and Equality Policies which are available on the school website: [www.snettisham-primary.co.uk](http://www.snettisham-primary.co.uk)

## **The Aims of the Syllabus**

### **Principle Aim**

The aims of R.E in school cannot be limited to simply teaching Faith Stories to children nor can it be limited to moral education. A great deal of the lives of the children in school today seems to be firmly rooted in the material world and our overall philosophy, in all aspects of education, must be to emphasise the intrinsic values, so that not everything is a means to an end, but that some things are good to do in themselves. We need to create awareness in children that they do have a spiritual life which responds to others, to natural beauty in Creation and to other aesthetic forms in art, poetry and music.

The following four attitudes are essential for good learning in R.E. and need to be consistently developed at each key stage:

- Self Awareness
- Respect for all
- Open Mindedness
- Appreciation and wonder

Norfolk's Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education should help pupils to discover what religion is by:

1. Acquiring knowledge and development understanding of Christianity and the other principal religions represented in Great Britain;
2. Developing an understanding of the influence of beliefs, values and traditions on individuals, communities, societies and cultures, and of how religion can enhance the lives of people who embrace it;
3. Developing the ability to consider and reflect on religious and moral issues in order to make informed choices in the context of a growing knowledge of the teachings of the principal religions represented in Great Britain;

Enhancing their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development by:

- a) Discussing and reflecting upon key questions of meaning and purpose such as the origins of the universe, life after death, good and evil, the being of God and values such as justice, honesty and truth
- b) Studying a range of moral issues, including those that focus on justice, to promote racial and religious respect and the important of personal integrity
- c) Exploring how religious, non-religious and philosophical traditions have shaped and influenced different communities and societies
- d) Promoting racial and inter-faith harmony and respect for all

## **Objectives**

There are two general objectives in the N.A.S.

1. Learning about religion and belief
2. Learning from religion and belief

More specific objectives are:

- To help the pupils to be aware of themselves as individuals and of relationships with others
- To explore and interpret the natural world
- To examine the phenomena of religion, that is, its discernible features, such as sacred buildings, and sacred writings
- To inform the pupil of the religious heritage of his own country
- To inform the pupil about the life and teaching of Jesus
- To show how religion is expressed in terms of service and social concern
- To help pupils to begin to understand religious language
- To introduce pupils to religious and non-religious beliefs other than Christianity
- To describe and begin to understand religious and Humanist approaches to ultimate and ethical questions

## **Responsibilities**

The implementation and monitoring of R.E. is the responsibility of the R.E. Subject Leader and the Headteacher.

## **Monitoring**

Subject Leaders have scheduled release time to monitor the learning and teaching of their subjects. Following any monitoring a written report is given to the Headteacher, which is shared with governors. Monitoring can take many forms but will include activities such as pupil interviews, book scrutinies, learning walks, peer teaching, tracking 'planning to practice' and records of coverage and progress.

In R.E, as in all other subjects, the role of the teacher is that of educator. The right of individual teachers to exempt themselves from teaching R.E, and that of parents to withdraw their children from R.E. lessons is a legal entitlement.

## **Assessment**

Assessment is carried out in line with the N.A.S. under the objectives of:

1. Learning About Religion and Belief
2. Learning From Religion and Belief