



WENSLEY FOLD CE PRIMARY ACADEMY

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

MISSION STATEMENT

The school values and recognises the uniqueness of each individual child and acknowledges their fundamental right to be educated to their full potential in a safe, secure and caring environment. The school, which has a Christian heritage will, in partnership with parents and the extended community, aim to make each day count for all.

SCHOOL STATUS

Wensley Fold is a Church of England Academy working in partnership with St Silas's Church, as part of Blackburn Diocese.

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

The R. E. Policy document defines how the school is fulfilling the statutory requirement to deliver Religious Education as an integral part of the National Curriculum.

R.E. is a statutory element of the core curriculum for all pupils. As an Academy, Wensley Fold is able to select its own R.E curriculum and scheme of work and has chosen to follow the Diocesan Agreed Syllabus.

The school, through its Mission statement, core values, ethos and through the teaching and learning programmes recognises the contribution of Religious Education to the school curriculum in actively promoting the values of perseverance, respect, trust, courage and friendship. Great emphasis is placed on:

- Pupils valuing themselves and others
- The role of family and the community

AIMS

The school curriculum will aim to provide opportunities for all children to learn and achieve.

The school curriculum will aim to promote children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life.

At Wensley Fold we believe that R.E. must not simply be an exploration of world religions, but that it should allow all children the opportunity to -

- explore their inner selves
- think more clearly for themselves about religion
- find answers for themselves about life and how to live it through the choices that they make
- grow within themselves

We aim to promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development by seeking to:-

- address the fundamental questions of life;
- respond to such questions with references to the teachings and practices of religions and in the light of their own experience and understanding;
- reflect on their own beliefs, values and experiences;

- develop positive attitudes towards other people, respecting the right of others to hold beliefs different from their own, enabling them to live in a community and a world with many diverse religions;
- develop knowledge and understanding of the faiths, practices and values of all the religious traditions found in the community of Blackburn and elsewhere and of their influence on individuals, families communities, societies and cultures.

Our aim is for all children to learn about and from religion.

We believe this is vital. It is not enough for pupils to know and understand the facts about religions , although this in itself is very important we believe that children must be able to reflect on and respond to this knowledge and should be able to apply their understanding to what they experience in their own development, their communities and world they live in.

Children in the Foundation Stage are provided with those activities and opportunities as prescribed in the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum Knowledge and Understanding of the World.

ORGANISATION

The Scheme of Work provides each class with a programme of coverage for the school year. Each class is taught R.E. by the class teacher or support teacher.

Other opportunities to reflect on learning and develop awareness and understanding are provided through and by Worship, Circle times and School Council.

Oversight, monitoring and advice are provided by the R.E. Co-ordinator.

A named member of the Governing Body has responsibility for R.E. provision and liaison with the co-ordinator. The R.E Co-ordinator also presents the R.E Management Plan to Governors on a bi-annual basis.

RESOURCES

Teacher resources are centralised in the cupboard in the SPACE building, where it is easily accessible. Faith boxes containing additional resources and artefacts are also stored in the cupboard.

The Scheme of Work makes suggestions and gives advice about resources which can be utilised to deliver programme elements.

RELIGIOUS ARTEFACTS:

- Selection for each faith - Children are taught to handle them with reverence and respect.

ICT

In line with National Curriculum requirements and the School ICT Policy, every opportunity will be afforded to children to use the appropriate ICT facilities and resources available in school to support and enhance teaching and learning.

VISITS AND VISITORS

The school will endeavour to establish and maintain links with individuals and organisations within and outside the local community to provide children with first hand experiences within their area of study which will enhance and increase understanding and awareness. A matrix of visits has been devised to provide children with the opportunity to visit the special places of worship of some of the different faiths explored during their time at school.

ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING

The school acknowledges that assessing many of the aspects of R.E. is difficult and must be based on judgements and opinion. An assessment framework is provided for each child that allows for assessment of learning about and learning from religion, provides monitoring and tracking opportunities and informs planning. These assessments will provide the basis of reporting to parents on levels of awareness and understanding in R.E.

Circle times and School Council also provide opportunities for discussion and reflection, empathy and understanding of and about self and others.

SEND AND INCLUSION

All children are included and have access to all curricula and extra curricula opportunities in line with the school SEND/INCLUSION and EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES policies.

The school recognises that parents have the right to withdraw their children from R.E. lessons and arrangements will be made to accommodate this right should they so wish. The school will take the opportunity to liaise closely with parents who wish to exercise this right to ensure that the decision to do so is not based on any misunderstanding or misinterpretation of our aims and objectives.

Staff who express a wish to withdraw from the teaching of R.E. will inform the Headteacher in the first instance to discuss the matter.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

School governors have a legal responsibility, together with the headteacher, to ensure that: 'the school provides teaching of Religious Education for all learners in accordance with the agreed syllabus (or, otherwise, in accordance with relevant prescribed expectations) and has told parents/ cares of their right to withdraw their children.'

LINKS WITH COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Chosen themes for the focus of our Collective Worship will reflect the legal requirements for worship and the aims and ethos of the R.E. policy and the mission statement of the school.

It will provide opportunities for celebrating our differences, for rejoicing our common beliefs and for reflecting on our experiences.

REVIEW OF THE POLICY

The Policy will be reviewed by consultation with staff, the Headteacher of the school and the RE Curriculum Governor, and will take into account parental opinions where appropriate, the monitoring of children's work and performance and assessment procedures.

The RE Matrix and Scheme of Work will also similarly be reviewed and updated when necessary and appropriate.

Any amendments to the Policy arising from Review Procedures will go to consultation with staff and Governors for discussion, approval and ratification.

FATEMA SIDAT
R.E. CO-ORDINATOR
November 2017

Reviewed by the Governing Body November 2020

Signed.....Chair of Governors