



Burrough Green Church of England Primary School

Policy for Spiritual Development

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

To provide for all children aged 4 – 11 years a high quality all round education within a Christian context so as to develop in each child his or her full potential. To prepare those children both for their future education and to equip them with the skills for life in society.

Our philosophy about the personal characteristics children need to develop as effective learners and as contributing members of a Christian community are enshrined in our core values: **respect, aspiration, confidence, patience, determination, courage, love, nurture, teamwork and forgiveness.**

WHAT IS SPIRITUALITY?

Spirituality is a state of being engendered through valuing a non-material dimension to life, and also a reflective process of personal transformation as we explore the meaning of our lives through our experiences. This results in the development of personal values and beliefs, which may include belief in the existence of a divine being.

To make this easier to understand and to mirror the Burrough Green Code we have defined spirituality like this:

*I value the things I cannot own.
I think about what my life means.
I look to change for the better.
I deepen my values and beliefs.*

SCHOOL CONTEXT

Burrough Green is a small village school and is able to provide strong links with the community and church. It is an endowed Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) School. These links help to provide a framework on which to base our religious teaching. The local environment also provides opportunities to study and appreciate the natural world.

The use of ICT and visits will widen the children's experience of other environments. A variety of visitors are also invited into the school to share their experiences with us.

The role of the school is to teach children about religion and it is the responsibility of the parents to bring up a child within a religious tradition if it is their wish.

The school aims to foster and develop in children a sensitive tolerance and respectful attitude to all others of whatever views, faith and religion.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The broad framework for RE is determined nationally. The 1998 Education Standards and Framework Act and the Non-Statutory Guidance 2010 set out the legal requirements for RE and collective worship.

Collective worship

Aims

To give children the opportunity to participate in and respond in their own ways to the shared experiences of collective worship.

To worship in an identifiably Christian way in line with the founding Anglican Trust Deed. It is worth noting that worship (worth-ship) is an Anglo Saxon word which means acknowledging that which is of worth and value. This is reflected in the following:

- to provide opportunities for creative participation including prayer and reflection and to allow and encourage a diversity of response to the shared experience of worship
- to understand and celebrate what has meaning, value and purpose for the pupils as individuals, for the school as a whole and for the wider community
- to develop a sense of community within the school
- to celebrate achievements and special occasions for individuals, the school and the community
- to encourage pupils to plan, prepare and present acts of worship during the year
- to develop awareness and sensitivity
- to enable pupils to appreciate the use of symbolism and religious language
- to understand that worship is an integral part of the whole curriculum
- to plan relevant themes for worship.

Entitlement to worship

Every child is entitled to a daily act of worship. This is usually at the start of the day but may be at other times in the school day and in any group size from an individual class to the whole school.

Parents retain the right to withdraw their children from collective worship.

Use of visitors

The local Rector is welcome to attend any act of worship, and is invited to lead the worship on pre-arranged dates. Leaders from other local churches are invited to participate. Other visitors may include people representing a charity. A talk about the needs of others may be used as a stimulus for our worship.

St. Augustine's Church, Burrough Green

The church is used for special acts of worship in consultation with the rector and the church wardens and the community is welcome to attend. We strengthen our links with display boards in Church.

Planning

The staff have planned the themes for collective worship to link in with the 2 year topic cycle. The plans include our school values, PSHE subjects and Christian festivals. These are kept in the Collective worship file in the staffroom.

The format for worship includes a gathering and sending prayer, address, responses and hymn. Pupils of all ages are learning to prepare worship using this structure.

Collective worship and RE

Although collective worship themes and RE teaching will often compliment each other, particularly at the times of Christian festivals, the schemes for each are planned separately.

Resources

Collective worship is considered equally with other areas of the curriculum when financing resources. Copies of assembly resources are kept in files and on the Hall laptop. A selection of books and audio-visual materials are kept in the school.

The school has access to resources from the Diocese at Bishop Woodford House, Ely.

Religious Education

Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives for RE are set out in the County's Syllabus, "RE in Cambridgeshire 2013" supported by the Ely Diocese.

RE is given equal status with the National Curriculum and it must be provided for all children.

The county's agreed syllabus states the aims of religious education are to enable children to;

- acquire knowledge and understanding of Christianity and the other principal religions represented in the UK
- develop an understanding of the influence of beliefs, values and traditions on individuals, communities, societies and cultures
- develop positive attitudes of respect towards other people who hold views and beliefs different from their own; living in a society of diverse religions
- develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious issues, with reference to the teachings of the principal religions represented in Cambridgeshire and the UK
- encourage openness to ask questions and search for answers of meaning and purpose for themselves
- enhance their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- developing awareness of the fundamental questions raised by human experiences, and how religious teachings can relate to them
- responding to such questions with reference to the teachings and practices of religions and other belief systems, relating them to their own understanding and experience
- reflecting on their own beliefs, values and experiences in the light of their study

APPROACHES

The programmes of study for each Key Stage are explained in detail in Religious Education in Cambridgeshire. The Agreed Syllabus 2013

The two attainment targets are:

AT 1 Learning about Religion and Belief

AT 2 Learning from Religion and Belief

The Agreed Syllabus requires the following religions to be studied in depth in these key stages and other religions as appropriate:

Foundation/Reception: Christianity and religions and beliefs represented in the class, school or local community.

Key stage 1: Christianity and Sikhism

Key stage 2: Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism

METHODS

Besides specific RE lessons the skills and attitudes to RE are developed throughout the curriculum using music, drama, cooking, art, poetry, and other creative writing. History, English, Science, Art and Music and PSHE all provide opportunities for RE teaching and learning.

STATEMENT OF SPECIAL NEEDS

We will meet the specific needs of individuals and groups of children by providing them with relevant and appropriately challenging work at each Key Stage

STATEMENT OF INCLUSION

Teachers must also be aware that it may not be appropriate in RE for pupils from some religious backgrounds to be asked to express their learning about religions through representational art, music, dance or drama.

RESOURCES

There are a variety of books and artefacts available to teachers. We are continually expanding our collection of multi faith resources.

As a church school we receive regular communications, teaching packs and information from the Ely diocese.

RE is given equal opportunity with other subjects for the display of children's work and RE resources in the school and children are encouraged to bring in books and artefacts to share with others.

The school takes part in the educational programmes at Ely Cathedral arranged by the Diocesan Offices.

We also make use of regional resources to study other faiths.

ASSESSMENT

The national assessment scale subdivides each attainment target into levels. We will use the QCA scale as a guide for setting tasks (pg 43 of AS 2013).

Teachers use a variety of methods to assess an individual child's attainment. These include conversation, questioning, creative expression, role play, reflective and descriptive writing, as well as self-assessment by children.

RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL

Parents retain the right to withdraw their children from religious education and collective worship. They may also seek permission to withdraw children from school in order for them to receive religious education of a kind desired by the parents. These arrangements must not interfere with the attendance of the child at school other than at the beginning or end of the day.

This policy links to our Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural policy.

REFERENCES.

1. RE in Cambridgeshire – The Agreed Syllabus 2013
2. QCA Non –Statutory Guidance for Religious Education.(www.teachernet.gov.uk)
3. Teaching packs from Ely Diocese. (www.ely.angican.org. RE and Collective worship)

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MF – Foundation Governor