

ESK VALLEY TEACHING ALLIANCE

Castleton&Glaisdale Federation

Religious Education Policy

February 2015

Statement

In Esk Valley Alliance Schools we will be mindful of the Education Reform Act 1998 stating that “R.E. is a valid discipline in its own right, which acknowledges the spiritual nature of human beings”. We hope, through this policy and our work, to promote caring schools in which sound relationships flourish based on mutual respect and consideration for others. Children will be encouraged to express their thoughts, feelings and values whilst listening to and questioning the opinion of others.

Aims

- To ensure that R.E. has a major part to play in the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of children, such as **environmental and ethical issues including Fair Trade and Children’s Rights.**
- To encourage children to enjoy learning about Christianity and other world religions
- To help children be aware of the spiritual dimension of being human and to find meaning in life, **whilst believing in freedom and everyone’s right to this.**
- To recognise and respect all faiths, including other principal faiths of Britain, in their search for God and expression of truth.
- To give children confidence in exploring faiths using imagination and creativity
- To enable children to work collaboratively and be sensitive to the views of others.
- To develop skills and techniques in order to discover more about religions and religious people e.g. ICT, literacy, history.
- To explore our local Christian History.
- To create a safe and secure place in which children may express their faith, doubts, ideas and thoughts.
- To use R.E. in cross-curricular ways e.g. Links with collective worship, art, drama, music and PHSCE.
- To experience a variety of expressions of God and the wideness of the Christian tradition as well as a variety of other religious festivals. **Whilst fostering an understanding and respect for the cultural diversity of other religions, cultures and groups, encouraging tolerance of beliefs and traditions that may be different to our own.**
- To experience awe, wonder and mystery and reflect and respond appropriately.
- To recognise and live out Christian Values.
- To visit places of worship and welcome visitors.

Objectives.

Early learning goals:

- Children are sensitive to the needs and feelings of others and show respect for people of other cultures and beliefs.
- They take turns to share fairly.
- They express their feelings and behave in appropriate ways, developing an understanding of what is right, wrong and why.
- They treat living things, property and their environment with care and concern.
- Give opportunities for children to show a range of feelings, such as wonder, joy or sorrow in response to their experiences of the world.

Key Stage 1:

- Learn about Christianity, Islam and Judaism.
- Experience some special events, places, people and objects connected with the religions studied.
- Listen and talk (including drama) about some stories from religious traditions and begin to identify similarities and differences.
- Reflect on and talk about puzzling questions which arise from exploring religious ideas, from their own experience and the natural world.
- Think about themselves, their feelings and their relationships with others.

Key Stage 2:

- Learn about and develop their knowledge of Christianity and at least two other religions in depth. Consider life in families, communities and the wider society.
- Encounter key events, places, people and objects connected with the religion studied and discuss their purpose and functions.
- Explore questions of meaning and mystery and use times of stillness to work out their own responses, developing a sense of their own identity.
- Evaluate different points of view and show sensitivity to those whose beliefs differ from their own.
- Relate their work in R.E to other areas of the curriculum.
- Reflect on sources of wisdom and inspiration in their own lives.

Organisation

Children in key Stage 1 and Early Years have a designated time of three quarters of an hour. Those in Key Stage 2 have an hour of R.E. designated time. This may be taught in weekly lessons or as a focus block. Planning is organised over a four year cycle offering a balance of experiences across both attainment targets. Initial planning is taken from the North Yorkshire R.E. agreed syllabus 2013-2018 as well as units from the York Diocesan Board of Education Primary R.E. Syllabus.

Assessment, recording and reporting

There are some aspects of personal and religious development which do not warrant assessment – those inner feelings, thoughts and responses that are entirely personal. However, assessment can be carried out through:

- Discussion
- Questioning
- A written task
- Observation
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Children are assessed on the non- statutory national expectation in R.E. used in conjunction with North Yorkshire Agreed Syllabus. This will be monitored in the summer term annually through the EVA Alliance.

Resources:

- Diocesan Guidelines and Resources
- NYCC R.E Syllabus (2013-2018)
- Bibles and other sacred texts
- Websites
- Local places of Worship and artefact boxes
- Various books and CD's
- Visits and visitors
- School based special places (Church Schools)

Right of withdrawal (Church Schools)

The 1988 Education Act confirmed that parents have a legal right to withdraw their children from R.E. in all schools. It is hoped that all children, regardless of religious affiliation will be able to benefit from our RE curriculum. The views of parents who wish to withdraw their children from this part of the curriculum will be respected. However, parents should understand that the worship and religious education provided by the school is in accordance with the Church of England. This foundation is reflected in the curriculum and the whole life of the school community.

Right of withdrawal (Non-Church Schools)

It is hoped that all children, regardless of religious affiliation will be able to take part in the R.E lessons. However, the views of parents who wish to withdraw their children from this part of the curriculum will be respected.

Inclusion

Esk Valley Alliance Schools uphold an equal opportunities policy. All children will be included in RE activities with special provision being made for children with special requirements e.g. Disabilities requiring assistance for practical activities.

Review February 2018