

# Religious Education Policy

Reviewed by	Approved by	Date of Approval	Version Approved	Next Review Date
FGB	FGB		December 2016	December 2018

## Philosophy

At Westminster Church of England Primary Academy we are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all our pupils, so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. Every adult employed by, or invited to deliver services at our Academy, recognises our responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all our pupils by protecting them from physical, sexual or emotional abuse, neglect and bullying.

This policy describes our principles and approach and shows how we meet our statutory duties and the needs of our Academy population. It is written in accordance with Bradford Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) and the legal requirements of the 1988 and other Education Acts.

## **Aims and Purpose**

We aim to help children grow into confident, discerning, tolerant young people who can make choices in life. Religious Education is crucial in achieving this aim. It makes a valuable contribution to the curriculum and ethos of the Academy, promoting the values of truth, justice, and respect for all, recognising the changing nature of society including changes in religious practice and expression, and the influence of religion in the local, national and global community.

As a Church of England Academy we aim to foster empathy, love and hope through the values and beliefs of a Christian ethos. Children can reflect on what it means to have a faith of their own as well as learning about the faith of others. We are instrumental in equipping our children for the rest of their lives, therefore they need to have time to examine how they will live and fit into a changing multi-ethnic society.

## **Teaching and Learning Styles**

Religious Education may stand alone or be linked to topic work and other subject areas. A variety of teaching styles should be used: storytelling, discussion, drama, pictures, music and artefacts. Children will be given first hand experience, where possible, to explore places of worship and talk to people of various faith communities, both in the Academy and on visits.

Work will develop from pupils' own experiences of the local area and then be linked, extended and enriched to reflect the wider diversity of religion in Britain. In order to develop continuity and progression we will follow the Understanding Christianity programme which focuses on the teachings of Christianity and compares it with other religions.

## **Resources**

Resource boxes will be held centrally outside the staffroom which include books, posters and artefacts for the main religions of the world. Other resources can be borrowed from the Interfaith Centre in Bradford. A file of interactive resources and other information may also be found on the school's W-drive, following; Whole Academy – R.E. and Collective Worship. The Religious Education coordinator is responsible for ensuring resources are available.

## **Assessment**

Religious Education will be assessed termly using National Curriculum objectives. These will also incorporate work completed as part of our Collective Worship sessions and The Big Question. Teachers will use these to assess children's knowledge and understanding of the subject through written work and group discussions but no formal examinations will take place. Achievements in Religious Education will be included in the annual report to parents.

## **Monitoring and Review**

Planning will be monitored by the Religious Education coordinator and examples of work will be collated and examined at certain times throughout the year. The coordinator will support colleagues in the teaching of Religious Education, providing information about current developments in the subject. They will also visit lessons throughout the Academy to monitor continuity and provide support.

## **Professional Development**

The Religious Education coordinator will attend relevant courses according to the priorities of the Academy and report back to staff throughout the year.

## **Inclusion and Equal Opportunities**

Our Academy values every child. We seek to deliver a rich and relevant curriculum for all pupils, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, faith or disability by providing equal access and educational outcomes for all pupils.

Pupils with special educational needs will be considered when planning units of work and opportunities for differentiation will be considered for both more able and less able pupils. Staff will aim to meet the needs of all children by:

- Providing resources that reflect diversity and are free from discrimination and stereotyping
- Using a range of teaching strategies that are based on their needs
- Ensuring access to every activity, where it is safe and reasonable to do so.

## **Community Links**

Westminster CE Primary Academy is a church controlled Academy and as such, has historical links with the local diocese, church and the community. Those links will be strengthened by inviting speakers and using the local religious buildings as a resource.

## **Withdrawal**

Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from Religious Education and Collective Acts of Worship in order to receive religious education elsewhere. Teachers also have the right of withdrawal. The rights of withdrawal procedure are fully explained in the Collective Worship policy.