



# Taddington & Priestcliffe C of E Primary School

Religious Education Policy

November 2019

## Rationale

RE provides opportunities for children to learn about the things that matter in the lives of people locally, nationally and internationally. The Derbyshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2014-2019 is used in the school as a basis for our RE alongside the 'Understanding Christianity' resource. As an Aided School, our ethos is one where Christian values are encouraged and instilled.

## Purpose and Aims

At Taddington we share the overall aims of Derbyshire's agreed syllabus. The Principal aim of RE in Derbyshire schools is to enable pupils to participate in an on-going search for wisdom, through exploring questions raised by human experience and answers offered by the religions and beliefs of the people of Derbyshire and the wider community, so as to promote their personal development.

RE supports the aims for education, outlined in the National Curriculum 2013, to:

- promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society, and
- prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

## British Values

RE is used throughout the school to promote positive attitudes, tolerance and respect and to help the children understand diversity. It provides opportunity to explore Britain's rich diversity of religious, ethnic and geographical cultures and helps to prepare the children for life in wider society.

## Delivery/Teaching Methods

Religious Education plays a very important part in the life of the school. The aim is to encourage in the children an awareness of God, to teach them about the life of Christ and to foster love and tolerance in one another. We want them to ask the big questions and to understand the beliefs of others as a way of recognising diversity. The Derbyshire Agreed Syllabus is followed and teachers use the 'Understanding Christianity' resource to inform and support their teaching of that faith.

Children are given opportunities to become acquainted with stories from the Bible, with the Church calendar and with the lives of Saints and other inspirational figures. We encourage the children to develop spiritually by giving them time to reflect and appreciate the world in which we live, to instil in them a sense of awe and wonder. RE enables children to ask controversial questions and the space and time to make thoughtful decisions. We also encourage links with the local Church, of which we feel a part, and join in various festivals and events and value our role within our community.

Two thirds of our RE teaching is focused on the Christian faith and one third on other faiths. We value the importance of children exploring a variety of ways in which people from other faiths show their commitment and express their beliefs. In the EYFS and Key Stage 1, we look closely at Christianity and Islam and in Key Stage 2 we also look at Judaism. Other faiths may also be discussed as part of our key questions.

Moral and ethical education are also included in the scope of RE. Stories and examples from a wide range of cultures are used to foster understanding of such qualities as truthfulness, honesty, kindness, patience, tolerance and justice.

Our learning objectives in RE are presented as questions for the children to explore. Examples of some teaching and learning strategies used in RE include; direct teaching, discussion, drama, art, writing and music as well as opportunities for children to reflect. A full range of teaching strategies used can be found in the Teaching and Learning Policy.

Each class has a timetabled 1 hour weekly session of RE.

#### Resources and Resource Management

Resources are maintained and monitored by the teaching staff, who inform the RE coordinator should they need further resources. Money is regularly allocated in the curriculum plan for the purchase of resources and is prioritised through the RE action plan.

#### Assessment and Record Keeping

We are currently trialling assessment against the 'Learning Outcomes' presented in 'Understanding Christianity'. Progress in units based on other religions is assessed using the 'Attainment Targets and Levels' set out in the Derbyshire Agreed Syllabus for RE 2014-2019. We aim to do informal teacher assessments at the end of each unit as well as an End of Phase assessments.

#### Moderation

Monitoring of the standards of children's work and the quality of teaching in RE is the responsibility of the coordinator to ensure continuity and progression throughout the school.

#### Equal Opportunities

The school is committed to promoting inclusion of all children, whatever their age, ability, gender, race or background. We believe that in the teaching and learning of RE the achievements, attitudes and well-being of every child in the school is important.

#### Parental Right of Withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from RE lessons if they so wish and need to explore this right with the Headteacher, should they wish to exercise it.

#### Policy Review

This policy should be read alongside the school's policy for Collective Worship.

This policy document will be reviewed annually.