



# Alexander Hosea Primary School

*'Roots to grow, wings to fly'*

## **Religious Education Policy**

### **Introduction**

The teaching of Religious Education (RE) is statutory and **must** be taught in all state schools as part of the broad, balanced curriculum and its content is determined locally, not nationally. The curriculum reflects the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are, in the main, Christian, while taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain.

At Alexander Hosea Primary School, Religious Education is delivered in line with the South Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2016-2021 and is underpinned by our school vision (Roots to grow, wings to fly) and ASPIRE values:-

**Adaptable**

**Self-belief**

**Perseverance**

**Inclusion**

**Respect**

**Enquiry**

These, with RE and our Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC) teaching, contribute to the school's overall ethos.

### **Rationale**

We live in an ever-changing world where children need to examine and reflect upon their ideals and values. They need to develop an understanding of themselves and the beliefs and faith systems of others. RE gives them the opportunity to explore and discuss the difficult questions about how we should live in this world and value its diversity.

### **Aims**

The principal aim of RE is to engage pupils in a systematic enquiry into significant human questions which religion and world views address, so that they can develop the understanding and skills needed to appreciate and appraise varied responses to these questions, as well as develop responses of their own.

The following aims support the principal aim which involve 'learning about religion' and 'learning from religion':

- To know about and understand a range of religions and world views
- To express ideas and insights about the nature, significance and impact of religions and worldviews
- To gain and employ the skills needed to engage seriously with religions and worldviews

We aim to offer a rich diet of high quality RE through:

### **Guidelines**

We believe that Religious Education should be an exciting subject, so we employ a variety of teaching strategies including art, music, dance, drama, use of reflection, exploring artefacts, pictures, and photographs, visiting local places of worship and talking with the

local faith community to promote curiosity and questioning. We also use story, DVDs and special food to support our learning.

### **What religions are taught?**

As a minimum requirement:

In the EYFS, children will encounter Christianity and other faiths, as part of their growing sense of self, their own community and their place within it.

In KS1, the focus will be on Christians, Muslims and/or Jewish people

In KS2, the focus will be on Christians, Muslims, Hindus and Jewish people

In addition, we will consider the pupils and families we have within our local and school community and teach about their religions and beliefs, including non-religious world views.

Our teaching will also link with our school core values and British values, ensuring the development of inclusion and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

Much of the learning in Religious Education begins with the children's own experiences and emphasises how special and unique they are.

We will teach at depth rather than breadth and ensure that there is continuity and progression in learning across the key stages. Some teaching will be RE specific, whilst at other times it will be taught in a cross-curricular way or linked to our real life projects, but ensuring that the RE objectives are clear.

### **Assessment**

By the end of each key stage, the children are expected to know, apply and understand the content, skills and processes specified in the relevant programme of study, as in all subjects of the curriculum. Outcomes in RE will be reported to parents as part of the annual report to parents at the end of the academic year.

### **Right of withdrawal**

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from RE on the grounds that they wish to provide their own religious education. This will be the parents' responsibility. However, given that RE is now open, broad and explores a range of religious and non-religious world views, this should be discussed with the Headteacher before a decision is made. Parents must inform the head in writing of this decision.

### **Conclusion**

Religious Education helps to equip pupils to live in a religiously diverse society. It can help them to develop their own beliefs, attitudes and values and to appreciate and respect cultural traditions and beliefs which are different from their own. We aim to make this subject relevant and provide opportunities for children to demonstrate respect for diversity and promote equality. In doing this it makes important contributions to their personal development, enabling the pupils to consider some of the ultimate questions about human life and to grow in understanding and respect of each other.

### **Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)**

This policy has been screened to ensure that we give 'due consideration' to equality of opportunity and has been agreed and formally approved by the appropriate reviewing and ratification Committee.

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