



## Picknalls First School

### Religious Education Curriculum Statement 2023-2024



#### Intent

At Picknalls First School we intend to develop our pupil's knowledge and understanding of the major world faiths and prepare them for our multicultural world. We enable children to develop a sound knowledge not only of Christianity but also of other world religions including; Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism and Judaism. The role of Religious Education in our school is to help prepare and equip all pupils for life and citizenship in today's diverse and plural Britain, through fostering in each pupil an increasing level of religious literacy. By the end of pupils' education at Picknalls we intend that all pupils' will be more religious literate, and will begin to have an established and growing knowledge and understanding of beliefs, practices, spiritual insights and secular world views. In the context of their own considered standpoint, they would also be open to engaging with the views of others in a plural world.

When delivering RE we intend to:

- Promote the spiritual, moral, social, cultural, mental and physical development of learners at the school and within society
- Develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other major world religions or value systems adhered to in the UK
- Develop an understanding of what it means to be committed to a religious tradition
- Be capable of reflecting on their own experiences, and of developing a personal response to the fundamental questions of life
- Develop an understanding of religious traditions, and an appreciation of cultural differences in the UK today
- Develop their investigative and research skills, in order to hold reasoned opinions on religious issues
  - Have respect for other people's views, and ability to celebrate diversity in our society

#### Implementation

We will teach RE through our three main strands of the Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus, which are - Exploring, Engaging and Reflecting. Our teaching enables children to extend their own sense of values, and promotes their spiritual growth and development. We encourage children to think about their own views and values in relation to the themes and topics studied in the RE curriculum. Not only will RE be taught to our children in their classrooms, they will be taught the key principles of RE within our Connected Curriculum assemblies, special festivals, special theme days where focus religious and faiths will be taught and religious visits. Some of our school assemblies also focus of special religious times, where the children will learn about a range of religious celebrations.

We will implement RE in our school through our three teaching and learning strands of the Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus, where our pupils will acquire these skills:

#### Exploring

Our pupils develop an increasing core of insightful knowledge concerning religions and beliefs, both in Britain and in more global terms. They explore religious beliefs, teachings and practices, acquiring knowledge and understanding of religious stories, sacred texts, lifestyles, rituals and symbolism that offer insight into religious experience and living within a faith community.

## **Engaging**

Our pupils develop the capacity to engage with ultimate questions and to formulate their own sense of identity and values. They engage with fundamental questions, appreciating the human and religious questions that are raised by life and its experiences, and through which meaning, significance and value are forged, and by expressing and evaluating their personal responses to such questions. Our pupils gain skills to be able to relate the things studied and discussed, to their own experiences.

## **Reflecting**

Our pupils develop a growing range of the social, spiritual and emotional skills and dispositions appropriate to living well in a religiously plural and open society. They reflect on the reality of religious diversity and on the issues raised by living in a diverse world. They develop skills of analysis and discernment in relation to prejudice, discrimination and bias, together with skills of self-awareness, moral judgement and responsible choice.

In our Early Years Foundation Stage our pupils have the opportunity to encounter the diversity of faiths represented in their own community and in Great Britain. Giving our young pupils the familiarity with the presence of major faiths and a wide religious vocabulary raises awareness of the diverse nature of the world around us and provides a structure in which to develop their learning. As part of the National Curriculum for EYFS, we relate the RE aspects of the pupils' work to the objectives set out in the Early Learning Goals, which underpin the curriculum planning for children aged three to five.

In Key Stage One our main focus religion is Christianity however we also focus on many other faiths throughout our half term RE topics. Our topics involve the teachings of caring, belonging and how different faiths worship and celebrate, which we will then compare. In Key Stage Two a deeper understanding of all faiths taught in KS1 will be developed and studied in more detail. Here, our pupils will research and investigate different religious studies and be able to compare and contrast with other faiths.

Within our RE lessons, we teach our pupils about the values and moral beliefs that underpin individual choices of behaviour. We also promote the values and attitudes required for citizenship in a democracy by teaching respect for others and the need for personal responsibility, which links to our teachings of the Fundamental British Values. In general, by promoting tolerance and understanding of other people, we enable children to appreciate what it means to be positive members of our pluralistic society.

## **Impact**

It is our duty to ensure that our young people are able to live in harmony with others and this requires an understanding of religion and the life stances adopted by communities. We want to contribute to our pupils' personal development and well-being to provide community cohesion by promoting mutual respect and tolerance in our diverse society.

Through RE in our school, we provide opportunities for spiritual development. Our pupils consider and respond to questions concerning the meaning and purpose of life. We help them to recognise the difference between right and wrong, through the study of moral and ethical questions. We enhance their social development by helping them to build a sense of identity in a multi-cultural society. Our pupils explore issues of religious faith and values and, in doing so; they develop their knowledge and understanding of the cultural context of their own lives.

Our pupils being educated today will grow up alongside many people with a faith different to their own or no faith at all. It is our duty to do our utmost to ensure that young people are able to live in harmony with others and this requires an understanding of religion and the life stances adopted by communities which we will begin to build within the early education of our pupils through our high quality RE teaching.

## **Next steps**

- To ensure teachers collect RE evidence in the purple RE folders and have marked using the new feedback policy
- To monitor the teaching and impact of RE across the school - To complete an RE folder scrutiny to monitor the use of the long and medium term planning and the coverage of RE throughout the school
- To carry out pupil learning conversations in summer term to discuss RE with pupils across the school.
- To meet with our pyramid schools to discuss RE and how we can move it forward and ensure we are all inline for our feeder schools.

Prepared by Mrs Cornes

RE Leader

