Janet Duke Primary school

Religious Education policy

The aim of Religious Education teaching at Janet Duke primary school is to encourage children to develop an understanding of other people's views and opinions and to respect these.

Children are taught a wide range of religions and religious beliefs as well as understanding that some people do not have a belief. The subjects encourage children to discover a sense of identity and cultural understanding for others around them.

Religious Education promotes empathy in the children. Empathy enables children to have the ability to understand and share feelings with one another. It helps children to understand another's experience and to be mindful of this. When leaving Janet Duke Primary, we as a school hope to have developed a well-rounded, understanding human being who will benefit and influence society.

Aims and objectives.

- Develop the ability to be reflective about their own beliefs, religious or otherwise, that inform their perspective on life and their interest in and respect for different people's faiths, feelings, and values
- Facilitate a sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others, and the world around them.
- Use of imagination and creativity in their learning
- Encourage a willingness to reflect on their experiences.

Teaching and learning

In each key stage the children are given the opportunity to learn about different religions the children may have already come across or not. Each child will learn about the important people within different religions as well as celebrations, important stories, and important places. Each child can share their beliefs in a safe, understanding and encouraging environment where they will not be judged but embraced. Children can experience aspects of different religions throughout the school giving them enjoyable and memorable experiences which they can carry with them throughout their lives.

Resources

Resources that would be of use to lessons and teachers can be found in the resource's cupboard where the science and history resources can also be found. More resources can also be found outside the subject lead's classroom. If there is anything specific that is required speak to the subject lead as if the resources can be used across the school, it may be useful for other classes.

Curriculum

Religious Education follow the Essex agreed syllabus across all year groups. Essex has continued to become increasingly diverse in terms of ethnicity. In 2003, 6% of Essex pupils were of minority ethnic heritage. In 2014 over 12% of our pupils were from Black and minority ethnic backgrounds. In developing understanding of and respect for people of different faiths, RE has an important contribution to make to schools and to the local community.

Cross curriculum

RE links with many of the subjects across school. The children learn keys dates and times of year in which certain religious celebrations take place. The children use a range of skills and techniques to show their learning this could be through drama, art or writing letters dairy entries or fact files. Children can make links with what they have learnt in history and geography to what they are learning in RE.

Foundation stage

RE is taught in reception classes as a part of the Foundation Stage of the National Curriculum, the RE part of the children's work is linked to the objectives set out in the Early Learning Goals (ELGs). RE makes a significant contribution to the ELG objectives of developing a child's knowledge and understanding of the world through activities such as discussing what is important to them, thinking about different celebrations and what we might do during these celebrations.

SEN

Please refer to the SEN policy for further information about how SEN are supported across all curriculums throughout school.

Assessment and recording

Children's work is assessed informally at the end of every RE lessons. Children's work is recorded in their RE books with a clear WALT which refers to what they are learning in that lesson. The WALT is one of the children's achievement statements which are aimed to be met by the end of the term or the end of the school year. Each Unit of work has a question in which relates to a religion or multiple religions. Each lesson breaks down the question and focus on supplying the knowledge children need to answer the question. At the end of the unit the question is asked again, and the children use knowledge from all lessons to be able to answer it. Lessons have the flexibility to be taught through role play, stories, video clips but commonly through discussions. When a lesson is taught through discussions there is no expectation to have written work in their books, however they should state that learning was made through discussion to make it clear to whoever that the achievement statement was taught in this way.

Right to withdraw

All students are entitled to receive RE as part of a broad and balanced curriculum at school which promotes their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development" - Religious education in English schools: Non-statutory guidance 2010. However, the law gives parents/carers the right to withdraw their child(ren) from collective acts of worship and/or Religious Education lessons, in accordance with the 1988 Education Reform Act. At Janet Duke Primary School, we respect that right.

In the UK, the law does not prescribe how religious education should be taught or organised in schools, only that it should reflect the agreed syllabus of the Local Education Authority and the ethos of the school, as well as ensuring that students make good progress, learning about and from the world around them and that Teaching Standards are adhered to.

Parental right to withdraw children from RE

Parents/carers have the right to choose whether to withdraw their child from RE without influence from the school, although a school should ensure parents or carers are informed of this right and are aware of the educational objectives and content of the RE syllabus. If students are withdrawn from RE, schools have a duty to supervise them, though not to provide additional teaching or to incur extra cost; suitable work relating to the child's religious education should be provided by the parents/carers.

Withdrawal Procedure

If a parent chooses to withdraw their child from RE, they need to:

Inform the school of their request for their child(ren) to be withdrawn from RE and/or 'religious assembly' and whether they intend partial or total withdrawal for their child(ren)

This should be either in person or in writing to the principal; verbal communication (e.g. on the telephone, through the student or a note in a student's books) is not an adequate method. • Parents/carers will be invited to meet with the Subject Leader for RE and/or a member of the senior leadership team, to establish with the school their concerns about RE and to discuss the practical implication of withdrawal. o At the meeting, the Agreed Syllabus and Schemes of Work will be made available for the parents to read and ask questions about, should they choose to. o It is not envisaged that establishing the reason for withdrawal and practicalities of withdrawal from RE be either lengthy or a means to change parent's/carer's minds, but a meeting with the relevant staff is necessary

to ensure parents/carers have all relevant and adequate information to make an informed choice. • Parents/carers of withdrawn children will be asked to provide suitable alternative work of a religious nature for their child(ren) to be completed at the time of the RE lesson. It will not be the responsibility of the teacher either to set or mark alternative work. Students who have been withdrawn will be allocated to different classes or a specified place on an independent basis in order to ensure suitable supervision. These arrangements may need to change from week to week. • If a student is withdrawn from assembly, they will be allocated to different classes on an independent basis in order to ensure adequate supervision during the assembly. These arrangements may need to change from week to week. • In addition to the above, parents/carers also have the right opt out of any visits to places of worship. Prior notification will be necessary to ensure adequate supervision is organised for the student. • If a student is only to be partially withdrawn from RS lessons that discuss a specific religion or issue, it cannot be guaranteed that reference to these religions or issues will not be made in more general lessons.

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