



# CROFTLANDS INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL

## Religious Education Policy

### Legal Requirements

The statutory requirements are to be found in the Education Act (1944) and the Education Reform Act (1988).

- RE must be taught according to a locally agreed syllabus prepared by a specially convened standing conference. At Croftlands Infant and Nursery School, RE is taught within the Cumbria agreed syllabus for Religious Education.
- RE must not be denominational but teaching about denominational differences is permitted.
- RE must be provided for all registered pupils, but parents have the right to withdraw their children from RE lessons.
- The Educational Reform Act (1988) states that 'RE must reflect the fact that religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian whilst taking account of the teaching and practices of other principal religions represented in the country'.

Parents do have the right to withdraw their child from RE. Where parents are wishing to exercise this right, the Governing Body would first suggest that the parents meet with the Headteacher to discuss their concerns. If the matter cannot be resolved, parents need to apply to the Governing Body in writing to withdraw their child from RE lessons. The Governing Body will make arrangements with the Headteacher for the child(ren) to be supervised or engaged in another activity during this time.

### Intent

The school's starting points in EYFS are Understanding of the world. In key stage one they are the three attainment targets in the Cumbria Agreed Syllabus points A B & C.

At Croftlands Infant and Nursery School we aim to help pupils to:

- develop an open-minded knowledge and understanding of Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism as relevant other world religions.
- help children understand their own and others' religious and cultural heritage.
- develop understanding of the effect which religious belief can have in our lives.
- foster respect, tolerance, empathy, awareness and understanding of self and others in our teaching.

## **Implementation**

Religious Education is taught as part of a cross-curricular approach. Through this, we aim to promote the spiritual, moral, and cultural development of all pupils. Religious Education is a compulsory subject and forms part of the national curriculum. RE is taught, as in other curriculum areas, by starting from the pupils' own life experiences and relating these to similar or different experiences of other people in the local community and in the wider national and international community.

Christianity is studied in depth. We also focus on Hinduism & Buddhism. We look at other religions as and when relevant, e.g. if another religion is represented among our children, or if to do so would enhance cross-curricular links. Major Christian festivals will be celebrated throughout the School, though these will have a different emphasis in each year group to avoid repetition.

Children in the foundation stage are taught RE through the area of Knowledge and Understanding of the World. Children in KS1 RE may be taught either discreetly or as part of a cross-curricular approach e.g. through PSHE, history, geography, art or as part of a focus day or period of time e.g. Christmas and Easter. (Collective Worship is separate to the teaching of RE, though strands of Collective Worship may be used to enhance the RE curriculum).

## **Equal Opportunities**

Every child is entitled to be taught RE regardless of their age, culture, gender, background or special need or disability. RE develops a balanced view of the multi-cultural society which we live in without compromising the faith, non-faith or cultural background of any pupil. The teaching of RE is approached sympathetically to all religious beliefs and teachers are mindful of the PREVENT and British Values Policy throughout their planned approach to teaching RE.

## **Health, Safety and Well-Being**

Visits to places of worship and other RE related venues are encouraged as an important part of developing a child's understanding of the role religion plays in communities. Prior to all visits, staff will carry out a formal risk assessment through EVOLVE, if necessary, visiting the venue prior to creating the risk assessment.

Staff will ensure that the context of the learning that will take place during the visit, will not undermine a child's own faith or challenge their belief and will only be presenting a knowledge base about a faith.

Permission will be sought from parents/carers for each child to attend the visit. We acknowledge the sensitivity that some families may have with regard to their child visiting another place of worship, staff will ensure that they do all they can to reassure parents and encourage pupil participation.

## **Assessment**

Assessment is written into the planning, and focuses on individual children's understanding of a given area of work. Where possible, samples of work will be kept, recognising that a large part of the work will be of an oral nature.

Assessment is used to inform future planning, and in commenting to parents at the end of the year.

## **Role of the Co-ordinator**

There is a named co-ordinator: Mrs J Procter, responsible for leading the teaching of RE throughout the school.

Their role is to:

- Provide support, advice and resources to members of staff
- Monitor the teaching of RE and outcomes for all children, revising policies and supporting staff with planning of RE where necessary.
- Monitor the teaching of RE across the school highlighting the continuity and progression of the areas taught across the school
- Attend relevant training and support staff through relevant INSET sessions
- Monitor the use and need of resources throughout the school.

## **Monitoring**

In order to ensure continuity and progression, it will be necessary to monitor the teaching of RE across the school. This should be done through liaison with staff to be able to observe lessons, through INSET sessions, monitoring planning and coverage, carrying out pupil interviews.

The result of any monitoring should be discussed with the Headteacher/SLT and any actions resulting from this should be acted upon within a given time frame.

## **Resources**

Our main resource is the population of the School, and our R.E. teaching has its basis in the knowledge, understanding, and experience of both adults and children in the School.

We use visits from and to the local community where possible, having visits from Jester for Jesus, open the book, clergy and congregations of local churches. KS1 aim to visit local churches and Conishead Priory.

Resources are stored in each year group and include books, pictures, artefacts, posters. All materials should be handled very sensitively and with respect.

R.E lead Miss Emma Wright

Approved September 2022