



## **Wordsworth Primary School**

### **Religious Education Policy**

Wordsworth Primary School aims to provide equality of opportunity for all children to develop their intellectual, social, moral and physical skills. Our teaching and learning policy provides the framework through which all curriculum areas are both taught and learnt.

It is a legal requirement to deliver Religious Education to all students other than those in nursery classes, as stated by the 1996 Education Act. Section 352 identifies Religious Education as a distinctive part of the basic curriculum, alongside the National Curriculum. Religious Education has equal standing with other National Curriculum subjects and will be taught at Wordsworth School in accordance with the Hampshire R.E. syllabus "Living Difference" and the relevant Early Learning Goals.

At Key Stage 1 the time allotment for Religious Education is 36 hours and for Key Stage 2 it is 45 hours; there is a legal requirement to teach Religious Education at the Early Years Foundation Stage but this does not include a time allocation.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from part or all of Religious Education. Children who are withdrawn will be suitably occupied and supervised. Teachers' rights are also safeguarded, should they wish to withdraw from the teaching of Religious Education.

#### **Aims**

To provide opportunities for children to:

1. Develop their knowledge and understanding of, and their ability to respond to, Christianity and other principal religious traditions represented in Great Britain.
2. Understand and respect different religious beliefs, values and traditions, and understand the influences of these on individuals and communities.
3. Develop their own sense of identity and belonging, preparing them for life as citizens in a plural society.
4. Develop enquiry and response skills through the use of distinctive language, listening and empathy.
5. Reflect on, analyse and evaluate their beliefs, values and practices and communicate their responses.

The attitudes we wish to foster through our teaching of Religious Education are:

- Curiosity
- Open-mindedness
- Self-understanding
- Respect
- Wonder and appreciation

## **Curriculum Content**

Religious Education must be taught according to the Agreed Syllabus produced by the local Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE). The Agreed Syllabus for Southampton, Portsmouth and Hampshire is 'Living Difference' (2004).

The Department for Education Circular 1/94, paragraph 32 states that:

*'The law has always stated that agreed syllabuses must be non-denominational. Accordingly, they must not require teaching by means of any catechism or formulary which is distinctive of any particular religious denomination... syllabuses must not be designed to convert pupils, or to urge a particular religion or belief on pupils.'*

(see also Education Act 1994, section 26(2) ).

Thus, the Religious Education curriculum followed at Wordsworth Primary School seeks to explore religious traditions through concepts, rather than imparting religious subject knowledge. The breadth of study of 'Living Difference' requires schools to explore Christianity and other principal religions represented in Great Britain; at Wordsworth Primary School the designated secondary religious tradition for study is Hinduism in Key Stage 1.

At Wordsworth Primary School Religious Education is taught through cross-curricular topic work or mini topics as appropriate, exploring a different concept during each unit. A wide variety of strategies are used in order to meet pupils' various styles of learning; examples include drama, role-play, school trips, visitor, speaking and listening, art and design, ICT, written tasks and thinking skills.

The curriculum overview is planned by the Subject Leader, in consultation with staff. Class Teachers are responsible for their own short term planning, according to the needs of their class. Resources are regularly reviewed by the Subject Leader according to curriculum content.

We continue to foster the links we have with local religious groups. We ensure cohesion and progression through staff discussions and the Subject Leaders' participation in 'RE Development Groups' run by Hampshire Inspection and Advisory Service (HIAS).

## **Monitoring and Assessment**

The Subject Leader monitors the planning and implementation of the scheme of work. The Subject Leader assesses samples of children's achievement on a termly basis, in order to assess the effectiveness of the school's provision at each stage of the teaching and learning cycle of 'Living Difference'.

Reporting to parents on children's individual achievement is a legal requirement. This occurs as part of the Annual Report for all individual pupils, which is sent home at the end of the Summer Term.