



LAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Religious Education Policy

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Checked by Governing Body:

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1. Introduction:

This policy has been shared and approved by the teaching staff and school governors.

At Layfield Primary School, we believe that Children need to be given the opportunity to explore, discover, respond and examine the world around them. It is vital in our current cultural climate that children are given a rich variety of experiences through which they can develop the skills, attitudes and knowledge to create their own beliefs and values in life. They must also be taught the values and beliefs of others so that they will learn to respect and value other people.

There are two distinct areas of Religious Education:

- Explicit Religious Education - which recognised the various aspects of a particular religion with regard to symbols, beliefs, founders and buildings.
- Implicit Religious Education - which focuses upon self-awareness, relationships and the natural world.

Both of these strands are key elements in a balanced Religious Education policy. Implicit Religious Education enables children to develop the skills required to understand religious concepts which are delivered as the child progresses through the school.

2. Aims and Objectives:

2.1 Aims

Religious Education at Layfield Primary School aims to:

- Acquire knowledge and understanding of religion and to develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about Christianity and the other principal religions represented in Great Britain.
- Develop an understanding of the influence of beliefs, values and traditions on individuals, communities, societies and cultures.
- Enhance their spiritual, moral, cultural and social development by:
 1. Developing awareness of fundamental questions of life raised by human experiences and of how religious teachings can relate to them.
 2. Responding to such questions with reference to the teachings and practices of religions, and to their own understanding and experience.
 3. Reflecting on their own beliefs, values and experiences in the light of their study.
- Develop a positive attitude towards other people, respecting their right to hold different beliefs from their own and towards living in a society of diverse religions.

2.2 Objectives

Religious Educations at Layfield Primary School seeks to achieve the following objectives teaching pupils to:

- Explore their own thoughts and feelings and relate them to the world around them.
- Understand how religion influences peoples' lives.
- Value themselves and the beliefs of others.
- Develop empathy, thus helping pupils to recognise and challenge stereotypes found throughout the world.
- To consider commitment and a sense of belonging.
- To appreciate the feelings of awe, wonder, reverence and humility experienced in everyday life.
- To foster a sense of self-worth and enhance positive self-esteem.

3. Content

3.1 Early Years Foundation Stage

In the EYFS, RE is taught through the Early Years Foundation Stage early learning goals. Learning outcomes are found in the section Personal, social and emotional education. R.E is planned for within the creative curriculum.

3.2 Key Stage One and Two National Curriculum

Religious Education is a statutory subject. The delivery of Religious Education at Key Stage 1 and 2 will be through the use of the new Stockton Religious Education Syllabus (2012) with the supporting scheme of work study units. The implementation of the study units help to ensure the continuity and progression of skills, knowledge and understanding across the school.

3.3 Cross-Curricular Links

Religious Education lends itself to the development of other curriculum areas and in Key Stages 1 and 2 will be used to support art, literacy, drama and music. It is a springboard which can present meaningful ideas and concepts as a starting point for many areas of the curriculum. Religious Education will be used as a link which gives scope for development, where there is not link made, Religious Education will be taught in isolation, thus alleviating any unsubstantial connections.

3.4 Parental Involvement

Parents are encouraged to participate in their child's education. Parents are informed of their child's progress at parents meetings and in the End of Year Report. Parents are also encouraged to engage in some of our creative competitions that have been set up to help support learning in the home such as our Harvest competition and Easter competition.

4. Planning and Resources

4.1 Planning

Planning is already in-place across school and follows the Stockton Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education. Class teachers then simply adapt planning to their class so that personalised learning can take place and a range of attainment levels are met within their class too.

4.2 Resources

Religious Education artefacts, information and other useful resources are stored in a central area. They are organised into separate religions which provide a bank of useful and interesting articles. There is also a box which holds multi-cultural resources. There is a collection of artefacts, posters, books and teacher information which assist in the teaching of Religious Education throughout the school.

5. Implementation

5.1 Delivery of the Curriculum

At Layfield, RE is delivered in a number of different ways to pupils. This includes:

- Focussed assemblies covering particular themes such as advent etc.
- Planned lessons, as outlined in our curriculum document, carried out once per week delivered by class teachers or other cover supervisors e.g. PPA staff etc.
- Integration into other lessons such as Literacy, Geography etc.

5.2 Allocation of time

The delivery of Religious Education in Key Stage 1 is 36 hours per year.

At Key Stage 2 it is 45 hours per year.

Religious Education will be taught for a whole day every half term.

6. Assessment and Monitoring

There is no formal assessment in religious education, but as in all curriculum areas it is important to establish a broad criteria for assessing each child's attainment. Observation and discussion, carried out over a period of time, will consider children's knowledge and understanding. Each child's response will differ depending on the depth of understanding. There will also be the opportunity for pupils to assess themselves.

7. The Role of the RE leader:

At Layfield, the role of the RE leader will include the following:

- Monitoring and evaluating the activities used for promoting RE.
- Monitoring and evaluating the progress of RE within and across school.
- Providing a framework for teaching RE throughout the school.
- Supporting colleagues in the teaching and implementation of RE.
- Responsibility of the purchase and organisation of resources to support teaching and learning.
- Learning about any new developments and inform colleagues in order to help develop the knowledge and understanding of the staff.
- Acting as a link between outside agencies such as different places of worship etc.

8. Equal Opportunities and Special Educational Needs

At Layfield, we aim to be an inclusive school and offer equality of opportunity and diversity when needed to all groups of pupils within school. All children at Layfield Primary School will be given the same opportunities to develop their religious educational knowledge. Children with special needs will be supported and encouraged to develop to their full potential.

9. Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

For Religious Education to contribute to the spiritual development of pupils at Layfield Primary School we aim, as a staff, to celebrate all that is good about the school, the community and the environment. We endeavour to give pupils the opportunity to explore what is meaningful, to ensure that experiences are relevant to the age, aptitude and background of the children, to welcome appropriate responses, to provide a safe and caring environment where children can flourish and develop into responsible human beings.

10. Liaison Links

At Layfield we actively seek to create links with various members of the religious community, for example we have sustained links with St Mary Magdalene Church in Yarm. Different year groups are also welcomed throughout the year to visit the church and learn about Christianity. We also endeavour to visit other places of worship such as the Mosque in Stockton therefore broadening children's experiences and linking it back to the learning that is taking place in school. Staff will take part in LEA initiatives and curriculum meetings where appropriate to discuss the development of the curriculum area. Staff will also access the LEA and Government websites and other suitable websites to keep up to date with developments in R.E.