



# Spennithorne VC CE Primary School

## RE Policy

Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. EPHESIANS 4:32

We are here to grow our children to be dynamic citizens of a multi-cultural tomorrow; to have a love of learning, to be articulate, resilient, nurturing, spiritual, open, to be inspired by and believe in themselves, others and the teaching of the Bible and grow to be the best that God created them to be.

### 1. Introduction/Aims of RE

Religious Education in a Church School has a unique position in the curriculum. Whilst it is approached as an academic subject in its own right, it is a means to help children explore the spiritual dimensions of life and to lay the foundations for understanding Christianity as a living faith and as the religion that has most shaped British culture and heritage. RE is organised in accordance with the Church of England's *Statement of Entitlement for RE* and with North Yorkshire agreed syllabus

RE enables pupils to know and understand about other major world religions and non-religious worldviews, their impact on society, culture and the wider world. RE offers the opportunity for pupils to deepen their understanding of the religion and world views as lived by believers. It teaches pupils to express ideas and insights and contributes to children's understanding of British values; to their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development; to a greater appreciation of global issues and other broader educational dimensions.

We believe, at this school, that RE both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. It allows pupils to explore and enrich their own beliefs and values. Our caring ethos and the value which we place on the development of the whole child is reflected in the RE curriculum. It is central to the ethos of the school.

### 2. Purpose of this policy

This policy should be taken and used as part of Spennithorne's overall strategy and implemented within the context of our vision, instrument of government, aims, values and ethos as a Church of England School. It relates to the teaching and learning of Religious Education for all pupils except where parents exercise their right of withdrawal. It should be read in conjunction with our other school policies.

### 4. RE and the Law (Quoted from the Leeds and York Diocesan Syllabus 2017)

#### RE is for all pupils

- Every pupil has an entitlement to Religious Education.
- RE is a necessary part of a 'broad and balanced curriculum' and must be provided for all registered pupils in state-funded schools in England, including those in the sixth form, unless withdrawn by their parents.<sup>1</sup>
- This requirement does not apply for children below compulsory school age (although there are many examples of good practice of RE in nursery classes).
- The 'basic' school curriculum includes the National Curriculum, RE and Sex Education. In Church schools RE has the status of a core subject.
- Religious Education is also compulsory in academies and free schools, using the syllabus as set out in their funding agreements.

#### Religious Education in Voluntary Controlled (VC) and Foundation schools

- Voluntary Controlled schools should follow the Local Authority Agreed Syllabus unless parents request a denominational one. There is much in the Diocesan Syllabus<sup>2</sup> to support schools to achieve excellence in RE and the Dioceses of Leeds and York strongly recommend

<sup>1</sup> School Standards and Framework Act 1998, Schedule 19; Education Act 2002, section 80.

<sup>2</sup> Leeds York Diocesan Syllabus 2017

that schools use the support materials in the Diocesan syllabus as they will complement the locally agreed syllabus.

## **6. Right of Withdrawal**

We firmly believe that RE is an important subject in the children's learning. It is a major contributor to the ethos of our school. However, we fully recognize the legal right of parents to withdraw their children from all or any part of RE on the grounds of conscience. We do encourage parents to contact the Headteacher if they have any concerns or questions about RE provision and practice at the school.

## **7. Organisation of RE in Spennithorne School**

RE at Spennithorne is taught in discrete lessons of an hour per week. In addition, we offer visits and themed/focused days or educational visits.

### **The Foundation Stage**

During the Foundation Stage, children begin to explore the world of religion in terms of special people, books, times, places and objects, visiting places of worship and through celebration. Children listen to and talk about stories. They are introduced to specialist words and use their senses in exploring religious beliefs, practices and forms of expression. They reflect upon their own feelings and experiences. They use their imagination and curiosity to develop their appreciation and wonder of the world in which they live.

### **In Key Stage 1 (KS1)**

RE in KS1 is enquiry-based. A key question followed by a series of supplementary questions provide the structure and direction of the individual enquiry. At KS1, pupils study Christianity and one other religion and include other worldviews.

### **In Key Stage 2 (KS2)**

The emphases of the enquiries in KS2 are on developing the skills of investigation and effectively engaging pupils in their learning in RE. At KS2, children study Christianity, Hinduism, Judaism and Islam and non-religious worldviews such as Humanism.

## **9. Understanding Christianity<sup>3</sup>**

At our school, we have incorporated Understanding Christianity into our RE schemes of learning. This is a comprehensive, systematic resource designed to give children a cohesive understanding of the Christian faith.

## **10. Differentiation and Inclusion**

RE is taught in line with our Inclusion Policy. Children who have been identified as having special educational needs receive provision that is different from and additional to the differentiated provision available to all children.

The subject co-ordinator maintains a list of children identified as gifted and talented in this subject and ensures that provision is made for these children.

## **11. Enrichment Opportunities**

We maintain strong links with St Michael and All Angels and St Alkeldas and the local community. We welcome the contribution that visitors make towards enriching religious education in our school. Our teachers are encouraged to organise out-of-school visits for the children to enhance their learning, particularly to places of worship.

## **12. Assessment, Recording and Reporting of RE**

RE is an academic subject and as such is assessed, recorded and reported on along with other subjects in the curriculum. This will be done in line with the our Assessment, Recording and Reporting policy.

## **23. Health and Safety**

Appropriate risk assessments are carried out when necessary, such as when handling artefacts and visits out of school.

## **24. Disability and Gender Equality**

The RE coordinator will be cognisant of the school's Disability and Gender guidance policy and make all reasonable adjustments in order to meet the needs of all children.

This policy will be updated in line with the policy review schedule

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<sup>3</sup> *Understanding Christianity: Text Impact Connections* (RE Today, 2016).