

SOMERVILLE PRIMARY SCHOOL



Religious Education Policy Document

Somerville Federation
Approved by Governors: February 2016
Reviewed: January 2017
Next Review Date: January 2018

Aims and Objectives

At Somerville Primary School we follow the Wirral Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education:

“To help young people to achieve a knowledge and understanding of religious insights, beliefs and practices, so that they are able to continue in or come to their own beliefs and respect the rights of other people to hold beliefs different from their own”.

Statement of principles

We at Somerville Primary School, recognise the role that religious education plays in the education of children during the Foundation stage and through both key stages. We believe that we must start from the context of our pupils and their communities and that it is important for them to learn about Christianity and other world religions. We promote active learning in R.E, including the use of artefacts, visits and visitors.

R.E across the curriculum

At school, religious education is part of the whole school curriculum and we intend that it should be taught alongside and through other curriculum subjects and also in a systematic way, as a subject on its own.

Some themes lend themselves particularly to a cross-curricular approach, especially those addressed by PSHE, RE and collective worship. For example, respect for self and others. Cross –curricular skills can be mutually supported by RE and other curriculum areas.

Equal opportunities

We intend that our religious education provision should reflect and support our equal opportunities policy. We try to ensure that R.E at the school reflects the various religious groups and faith in our school community and in the wider community. We welcome the involvement of the faith communities in sharing views and experiences with us, and we believe that we should inform those people who come to our school about the aims of religious education and the educational context within which their visit has been planned, helping to foster in pupil’s minds attitudes of respect for the beliefs of others and an understanding of their right to hold beliefs different from their own.

Religious education plays an important part in helping our school to foster the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our pupils. We therefore provide opportunities for the children to ask questions, reflect on their own experiences and to consider questions of meaning and purpose.

We believe that we have a responsibility to provide a safe, secure environment where pupils of all beliefs will be free to express their opinions whilst respecting other’s different views.

To foster appreciation that each person is special, we will teach an awareness, respect and understanding of the similarities and differences of individuals and

communities alongside celebrating the contribution that each person can make to society.

R.E. policy in practise

Curriculum time devoted to teaching R.E is to be no less than 5%.

Key stage 1 - 36 hours per year

Key stage 2- 45 hours per year

This does not include Collective worship time.

Religious education may be taught as a specific aspect within cross-curricular theme or as separate lesson following a theme.

The curriculum followed by each year group is set down in the Long Term Plan for RE.

Active learning techniques will be employed for R.E, including discussion, subject-based teaching, topic work, cross curricular links, display and careful use of religious artefacts, as well as visits to places of religious significance and visits to the school by people from religious communities.

Assessment

Pupils should be assessed on a range of areas including knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes. Assessment informs teacher planning and preparation and pupil learning and attainment. Assessment has a formative and summative function for both the teacher, pupil and parent.

At Somerville Primary School assessment will be based on the 8-level scale provided in the Agreed Syllabus.

The right of parental withdrawal

Parents retain the right to withdraw their children from Religious Education under the 1988 Education Reform Act. The school will actively seek to persuade parents against withdrawing their child from RE in such cases where the reason for doing so is not thought to be based on sincerely held religious conviction. In all cases the Headteacher will wish to discuss with the parent(s) the implications of their request. All requests to withdraw a child from Religious Education must be in writing and made available to the school Governors.

RE and Collective Worship (see Collective worship policy)

At Somerville Primary school we do not deliver our RE through acts of Collective Worship. Collective Worship does not count towards the recommended 5% curriculum entitlement time.