

COPPICE SCHOOL



Coppice Primary School – Religious Education (RE) Policy

Aims & Objectives

Through religious education at Coppice we aim to develop the children's knowledge and understanding of the major world faiths whilst allowing them time to reflect on questions of meaning and belief. We will help the children learn from faith as well as learning about religious traditions.

Through teaching religious education we should help the children:

- Develop an awareness of spiritual and moral issues arising in their lives;
- Develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other major world religions and value systems found in Britain;
- Develop an understanding of what it means to be committed to a religious tradition;
- Be able to reflect on their own experiences and to develop a personal response to the fundamental questions of life;
- Be able to appreciate the religious and cultural differences in Britain today;
- Have respect for other people's views and celebrate diversity within the community and society as a whole.
- Prepare to live, flourish and work in a global community.

To support us in these aims we have adopted the guidance of the Birmingham Agreed Syllabus 2007.

The Legal Requirements

There is a legal requirement to provide all children with a broad and balanced curriculum. This includes the national curriculum and the locally agreed syllabus of Religious Education. The statutory requirement entitles all pupils in Birmingham, irrespective of social background, culture, race, religion, gender, or differences in ability, or disabilities, to a programme of teaching and learning in religious education. The Birmingham Agreed Syllabus conforms to the legislation which states:

1. “Any agreed syllabus ...of religious education shall reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian.”
2. Should take “account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain.”

Alongside these requirements the teaching of religious education supports the 1988 Education Reform Act which requires a curriculum to:

1. Promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of the pupils at the school and of society; and
2. Prepare such pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

Withdrawal from Religious Education

The Education Reform Act 1998 allows parents to withdraw their child from religious education lessons if they so wish, although only after they have given written notice to the school governors. It also allows teachers to refuse to teach religious education lessons but only after they have given due notice of their intentions to the school governors.

An outline of the curriculum

At Coppice we base our Long Term plan on the Birmingham Agreed Syllabus. The Long Term plan includes the topics to be covered and the explicit links to the 24 spiritual and Moral Dispositions and suggestions for focuses of these lessons. Topics are assigned to a term but this is flexible and teachers can teach it at the most appropriate time during the year.

Teachers should refer to the Birmingham Agreed Syllabus when creating their medium term planning.

https://servicesforeducation.co.uk/files/Learning%20&%20Assessment/Subject%20Support/RE/Birmingham_Agreed_Syllabus_for_Religious_Education_2007.pdf

<https://www.faithmakesadifference.co.uk/>

Teachers are encouraged to make links with other areas of the curriculum, where appropriate, in particular P.H.S.E.

We aim to provide quality RE teaching through implementation of the Teaching and Learning Policy and topic planning will build on prior learning so children of all abilities are able to build on their knowledge and skills at a developmentally appropriate and challenging level.

Planning will be monitored by the AHT for Curriculum and the Phase Leaders to ensure subject coverage and progression through the age groups.

Foundation Stage

Religious Education is taught to all the children in the school. For Reception it forms part of the EYFS Framework where it falls into many of the areas of learning but most prominently in Understanding the World.

RE & Collective Worship

At Coppice we do not deliver our RE through Collective Worship. Occasionally resources introduced to pupils in Collective Worship e.g. an outside speaker, a theatre in education performance, a piece of music could later be discussed and developed in the classroom as a stimulus to the RE lesson but this would be an exception and not the rule. Collective Worship does not count towards the curriculum entitlement time.

Collective Worship can be used as an opportunity for pupils to share with a wider audience and experience or achievement that has come out of their RE curriculum e.g. an account of a visit to a place of worship, a re-telling of a festival story, the reading of a prayer etc.

Resources, Trips & Visitors

Further planning and resource ideas are available at:

<https://www.faithmakesadifference.co.uk/>

Children will have access to quality resources, carefully maintained that are presented and displayed with appropriate value and respect. We will provide books and reference materials that reflect the true nature of other faiths and show positive images to help children understand how other people follow their faiths. These will be kept in a central store that can be accessed by all classes.

Further resources are available in the school library.

Our school displays aim to offer children the opportunity to see positive and informative images from other faiths and aspects of our multicultural society.

We also use our local places of worship as a resource for learning and try to make use of people within the community as visitors to classes. Each year group should undertake either a visit or have a visitor each year. This aims to help make RE relevant and interesting to the children.

Date agreed by the Governing Body:

(Chair of Governors)

(Head Teacher)

