



### **The Curriculum.**

At Fairfield Endowed C of E. (C) Junior School we follow the Derbyshire LEA Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education.

Religious Education is a core subject of the curriculum and in our school we timetable a minimum of 45 hours a year teaching in each year group.

### **The nature and aims of Religious Education.**

Religious Education should enable pupils to:

- Develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and the other principal religions represented in our community, the UK and the World.
- Develop an understanding of the influence of belief, values and traditions of individuals, communities, societies and cultures.
- Make reasoned and informed judgements about religions and moral issues once this understanding has been reached.
- Reflect on their own beliefs, values and experiences and make comparisons with others' similar and different experiences.
- Develop positive attitudes of respect towards other people who hold views and beliefs different from their own, and towards living in a society of diverse religions.

### **Progression.**

We follow the programme of study for Key Stage Two in the Derbyshire LEA Agreed Syllabus for R.E. as laid out on page 38 of the syllabus and in addition we use the Understanding Christianity materials across the school. These are used as the basis of a spiral curriculum which revisits key concepts such as Creation, Incarnation and Salvation. In addition to teaching Christianity as a strong base, FEJS uses Christianity, Islam and Hinduism as examples of other faiths. In Year 3 we teach the foundations of Christianity only as our main feeder Infant school is not a Church school and we therefore feel the need to establish strong foundations as soon as children join us.

### **Teaching Methods.**

Teaching methods are stimulating and engaging, providing all students with access to religious education. Children have the opportunity to explore the beliefs of themselves and others through a variety of responses including music, art and discussion as well as writing.

The children are taught in mixed ability groups during Religious Education lessons. Our approach to teaching RE allows for all children including those with additional needs to reach their full potential. All teachers aim to provide the opportunity to achieve at Greater Depth within all lessons.

Religious Education teaching draws on the experiences of the pupils and uses key skills to develop their knowledge and understanding, as well as enhancing the quality of learning in RE.

Children are encouraged to use enquiry based learning as part of their RE and to consider the big questions in life and how different faiths may seek to answer these. Equally children are encouraged to ask questions of their own and this allows them to develop and use techniques developed during Philosophy for Children Sessions.

Where possible speakers and people from different faiths in the community are invited in to speak to the children and opportunities are taken to provide visits to our local churches and other religious institutions.

### **Opportunities:**

**A range of teaching and learning strategies which are effective for inclusive teaching of religious education include:**

- ICT to enhance learning through use of digital cameras, Video's, PowerPoint presentations, websites and 'Learning about Religion' on Server.
- The use of Drama including role play, freeze- frame, dance.
- Visits to places of worship, primarily St. Peter's Church, Fairfield.
- Representatives from religious groups visiting class/ school.
- Artefacts, big books, posters, videos, multicultural artwork.
- Games: picture or word cards for matching, classifying, prioritising, Sequencing, etc.
- Art and craft to enable children to express their ideas and to consider how others have expressed theirs.
- Enquiry led teaching - asking the big questions and considering the response in terms of faith.
- Music to create an atmosphere or for expression of ideas and emotions.
- Discussion to share and debate ideas and beliefs in a constructive manner.

**RE may be approached through the following devices:**

- Stories,
- Investigations
- Interviewing
- Problem- solving
- Written- work
- Cross- curricular themes
- RE topics
- Festivals
- Whole school topics
- Discussion on specific ideas
- Spontaneous enquiries

### **Collective Worship**

FEJS follows a long term collective worship plan which is detailed in the Collective Worship Policy. Worship is linked to key words from our School Vision namely

Dignity  
Respect  
Knowledge  
Wisdom  
Hope  
Community  
Living Well Together  
Raising Aspirations

Major Christian festivals will be celebrated as a school each year. Collective worship will be delivered by both school staff and visitors from both St Peter's and other local places of worship.

All children in the school will have the opportunity to lead worship during their time at FEJS. This may take the form of links to major festivals such as Christmas or Easter and Harvest.

### **Assessment and monitoring**

At the end of each unit, the children are assessed with respect to two attainment targets:

1. AT1 Learning about religion (religious perspectives)
2. AT2 Learning from religion (human experiences).

Assessment may be in the form of assessment of written work, a quiz, individual discussion teacher/child, peer- assessment or presentation to class. The assessment is used to monitor progress and inform future planning.

### **Equal Opportunities.**

The teaching of Religious Education in our school takes consideration of our Equal Opportunities policy and inclusion.

### **Withdrawal from Religious Education.**

A parent of a pupil may request that the pupil may be wholly or partly excused from receiving religious education given in accordance with the school's basic curriculum. Teachers with specific exceptions, may withdraw from teaching religious education.

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

The co-ordinator for Religious Education is responsible for:

- Policy and planning review and updating through consultation with staff.
- Resource management.
- Attending courses, advising staff and raising awareness.
- Monitoring the progress of pupils.

### **Review and Evaluation.**

The school's policy and practice in Religious Education will be reviewed as follows

- Individual evaluation.
- Team / Year group evaluation.
- Discussion with R.E. co-ordinator.
- Staff meeting / inset training.

- *S. Parkes (Deputy Headteacher)      October 2019*