

# Stradbroke CE Primary School

## Religious Education Policy



At Stradbroke Primary School, we believe that RE has an important part to play in promoting the social, cultural, moral and intellectual development of our children. It also encourages the children to reflect upon their own lives; allowing for a greater understanding of themselves as well as developing their awareness of the needs of others. Deeper thinking skills will be developed through discussion of different cultures and traditions, forming comparisons across religions so children gain a better understanding of the world around them, both locally and more widely.

### Legal Requirements

- † RE at Stradbroke CE Primary School is taught according to the Suffolk locally agreed syllabus.
- † RE teaching is provided for all children, although parents have the right to withdraw their child if they wish.

### Aims of the Curriculum

Our key aims are to ensure children develop a well-rounded and balanced understanding of different cultures, faiths, belief systems and religions around the world. We also endeavour to provide children with opportunities to reflect on their own beliefs as well as build upon their understanding of the importance of faith to others. Other aims include:

- † Ensuring children enjoy learning about different religions so that lessons are engaging and promote curiosity.
- † Encouraging children to develop their awareness of others' beliefs and promoting positive attitudes towards others.
- † Allowing opportunities to reflect so that children can develop their own opinions and beliefs, as well as self-respect and self-awareness.
- † Helping children to understand the importance of religion to others and how this impacts individuals and communities around the world.
- † Encouraging children to develop their social and moral understanding so that they can value the beliefs of others, however different from their own.

## **Equal Opportunities**

Every child is entitled to the teaching of RE, regardless of their age, gender, culture, background or special educational needs. RE develops children's understanding of multi-cultural differences that are extremely relevant and important today.

## **RE in the Community**

Visits to a variety of religious buildings help to develop children's understanding of the importance of religion within everyday life. For special occasions, such as Harvest Festival, Christingle and Easter, services are held at All Saints Church in line with the Church year and to promote local links between Church and school.

Visitors also come into school to engage children in their learning and to develop their understanding of different beliefs.

## **Teaching and Learning**

RE is taught across the year groups on Friday afternoons to ensure continuity and progression throughout the school. Different religions and belief systems are taught half-termly, with planning differentiated across the year groups.

The Foundation Stage and KS1 forms the basis of understanding and children are given opportunities to think about special events, places and people and why they are important. This then progresses onto developing understanding of our local community and why it is important to show care and consideration for others. Children are then encouraged to think about wider communities and how these compare to their own lives.

In KS2, children continue to develop their understanding of a range of religions and beliefs, including drawing comparisons to find similarities and differences. They are also encouraged to form and develop their own opinions, beliefs and ideas which can be openly discussed to demonstrate their understanding and reflections.

A wide variety of resources are available to aid the teaching of different religions, including books, artefacts, images, illustrations and posters to engage children in their learning. We also promote the use of drama - based activities to empower the children to take ownership of their understanding.

Quiet places are available throughout the school to encourage children to reflect, including our Prayer Space. Children can also write their own prayers for the 'Sharing Prayers' and 'Private Prayers' prayer boxes.

### **Planning for RE**

Medium-term plans are created according to the Suffolk Agreed Syllabus, ensuring that there is the appropriate coverage of different religions and beliefs across the school.

In order for children to develop their understanding of the individual religions, they learn about important celebrations, rituals, places of worship, symbols, holy objects and the importance of religion in everyday life. They are then encouraged to reflect on their own beliefs, draw upon their own experiences and develop deeper thinking skills through discussion to promote learning from religion. Important skills of application, interpretation and evaluation are also developed using open-ended and philosophical questions.

### **Monitoring**

Ethos Committees are responsible for monitoring the teaching and learning of RE, as well as suggesting improvements and changes. The Ethos Committee is comprised of governors and teaching staff who meet regularly to monitor the impact of teaching and learning on the children. The Junior Ethos Committee is formed by a representative from each class who work together to evaluate assemblies and introduce new ideas to develop RE and our Values within the school.