



Kibworth CE Primary School  
RE Policy



## **Religious Education Policy**

This policy is implemented within the context and spirit of the Vision Statement of Kibworth Primary School which values all members of the community equally and respects them as individuals.

“Let your Light Shine”

The policy is underpinned by the values of the school:

Hope  
Courage  
Justice  
Peace  
Love  
Patience  
Kindness  
Joy  
Forgiveness  
Service  
Koinonia  
Respect

Religious Education is unique in the school curriculum in that it is neither a core subject nor a foundation subject. The 1988 Education Act states that ‘Religious Education has equal standing in relation to core subjects of the National Curriculum in that it is compulsory for all registered pupils’.

Kibworth Primary School is a Church of England Primary School. RE is taught according to the Leicestershire Agreed Syllabus 2017 ‘‘Religious Literacy for All’ alongside the ‘Understanding Christianity’ materials provided by the Diocese of Leicester.

### **Context**

- Kibworth CE Primary School is a large primary school, serving children from Foundation Stage up to Year 6.
- We deliver Religious Education (RE) in line with the Leicestershire Locally Agreed Syllabus and Leicester Diocesan guidelines
- Kibworth CE Primary School recognises and values the religious backgrounds and non-religious backgrounds of each of our pupils. We intend to be sensitive to the home background of all and therefore work to ensure that RE is accessible to all pupils and teachers of any religious persuasion or none.
- We have a strong understanding of how RE can play a leading role in pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

- At Kibworth CE Primary School we know how relationships with members of local communities and local faith communities can enrich pupils' experiences in RE and we strive to cultivate and maintain these relationships.

## **Rationale**

The teaching of RE allows all pupils to explore, understand and express their own response to spiritual and religious approaches to life through the study of Christianity and other principal religions. RE makes a significant contribution to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural knowledge and development of pupils. The study of world religions, their stories, traditions, history, philosophies and ethics is an essential part of a broad, rich and well-rounded education. Religious literacy, knowledge and understanding make an important contribution to community cohesion, the instilling of British and moral values and our ability to empathise with the viewpoints and beliefs of our neighbours. *'The principal aim of RE is to engage pupils in systematic enquiry into significant human questions which religion and worldviews address, so that they can develop the understanding and skills needed to appreciate and appraise varied responses to these questions, as well as develop responses of their own.'* Leicestershire Agreed Syllabus 2016.

## **Legal requirements**

RE at Kibworth CE Primary School will meet legal requirements by:

- its inclusion in the curriculum of all registered pupils. In primary school, this is a requirement for all pupils in Foundation Stage to Year 6.
- reflecting the fact that religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, while taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religious traditions represented in Great Britain.
- teaching RE in accordance with Leicestershire Locally Agreed Syllabus and Leicester Diocesan guidelines.

## **Aims**

The principal aim of RE is to engage pupils in systematic enquiry into significant human questions which religion and worldviews address, so that they can develop the

understanding and skills needed to appreciate and appraise varied responses to these questions, as well as develop responses of their own.

Our aims of RE are that pupils will:

- Develop an awareness of spiritual and moral issues in life experiences;
- 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;
- Develop an understanding of religious traditions and to appreciate the cultural differences in Britain today;
- Develop investigative and research skills and to enable them to make reasoned judgements about religious issues;
- Have respect for other peoples' views and to celebrate the diversity in society.
- We want RE in Leicestershire schools to be challenging, inspiring and fun.
- We want pupils to develop their levels of religious literacy and conceptual understanding.
- We want them to be able to articulate, with confidence, their ideas about religion, beliefs and spirituality – and then to change their minds, if they choose to do so.
- We want them to be able to reflect on some of the fundamental questions about being human and to be open to change, appreciation and challenge.

RE can be an exciting subject which makes an inestimable contribution to learners' lives and therefore to their communities and to society. It our aim that pupils would be able to "Let Their Light Shine" in their communities.

## **Implementation**

In the Foundation Stage, RE is taught through topics based upon children's own lives and their experiences. The children participate in real life experiences through celebrations and festivals in a variety of cultures.

During Key Stage 1 the children study Christianity and at least one other principal religion in depth, such as Judaism and Islam. There are a variety of opportunities for

children to participate in cross curricular learning. There is also consideration for non-religious beliefs.

In Key Stage 2, the study of Christianity is developed and religious beliefs within Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism and Islam are explored.

The curriculum for RE aims to ensure that all pupils:

1. Know about and understand a range of religions and worldviews, so that they can:
  - describe, explain and analyse beliefs and practices, recognising the diversity which exists within and between communities and amongst individuals
  - 
  - identify, investigate and respond to questions posed, and responses offered by some of the sources of wisdom found in religions and worldviews
  - appreciate and appraise the nature, significance and impact of different ways of life and ways of expressing meaning.
  
2. Express ideas and insights about the nature, significance and impact of religions and worldviews, so that they can:
  - explain reasonably their ideas about how beliefs, practices and forms of expression influence individuals and communities
  - express with increasing discernment their personal reflections and critical responses to questions and teachings about identity, diversity, meaning and value, including ethical issues
  - appreciate and appraise varied dimensions of religion.<sup>3</sup>
  
3. Gain and deploy the skills needed to engage seriously with religions and worldviews, so that they can:
  - find out about and investigate key concepts and questions of belonging, meaning, purpose and truth, responding creatively
  - enquire into what enables different individuals and communities to live together respectfully for the wellbeing of all
  - articulate beliefs, values and commitments clearly in order to explain why they may be important in their own and other people's lives.

## **Approaches to teaching RE**

To make religious education a lively, active subject we employ a variety of teaching methods including reading, direct instruction, inquiry, discussion, recording, group work, visiting speakers, trips, film, art, music, role play and drama, the use of artefacts, pictures, stories and the use of periods of stillness and reflection. We visit St Wilfrid's Church regularly and work closely with our vicar, Foundation Governors and other members of the parish to enhance and deepen our RE lessons. We plan opportunities for our pupils to encounter other local faith communities through visits to places of worship or from members of faiths other than Christian.

### **Reporting to parents**

On an annual basis, the school reports to parents on attainment and progress in RE based on teachers' annual summative assessment judgement.

### **The right of withdrawal from RE**

At Kibworth Primary School, we are committed to the principles of inclusion and hospitality to people of all faiths and none. We recognise that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from Religious Education on the grounds of conscience. We would ask any parent considering this to contact the headteacher to discuss any concerns or questions they may have about the teaching of Religious Education at Kibworth CE Primary School.