



# **SANDWICH INFANT SCHOOL**

*Where everyone is valued and learning is fun*

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY**

### **LEGAL REQUIREMENT**

Religious Education (RE) follows the guidance of the Kent Agreed Syllabus 2018 which meets statutory requirements, that are:

- The curriculum shall include provision for religious education for all pupils registered at the school.
- The religious education programme must reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are, in the main, Christian; whilst taking account of the teaching practices of other principal religious traditions represented in Great Britain.
- The religious education provided will be in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus for Kent.

### **SCHOOL CONTEXT**

A Religious representation at Sandwich Infant School (2022-2023)

Christian	- 53
No religion	- 91
Hindu	- 1
Muslim	- 3
Catholic	- 4
Jewish	- 3
Russian Orthodox	- 1
Other	- 1

### **AIMS**

Within the framework of statutory requirements and those of the locally agreed syllabus our aims in RE are:

- To develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of religion through exploration of the beliefs and practices of the principle world faiths represented in Kent and Great Britain.
- To affirm each pupil in his/her own family tradition, religious or non-faith and through that to promote awareness, respect and sensitivity for the traditions of other people.
- To provide opportunities for the cultivation of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- To support pupils in reflecting and thinking about fundamental human beliefs and values so that they develop a personal framework by which they can live.

## **STRANDS OF TEACHING**

The teaching of RE in our school is structured into the following three strands:

1. Believing – Religious beliefs, teachings, sources; questions of meaning and truth.
2. Expressing – Religious forms of expression; questions of identity, diversity and belonging.
3. Living – Practices and ways of living; questions of values and commitments.

## **COORDINATOR**

The subject coordinator for RE at Sandwich Infant School is Mrs Shaw. The subject coordinator is responsible for monitoring all aspects of RE. It is the role of the coordinator to support class teachers and ensure that pupils receive their entitlement to the RE curriculum in line with the Kent agreed syllabus, the accompanying scheme of work and this policy.

## **TEACHING AND LEARNING**

The Kent Agreed syllabus for RE (2018) is used at Sandwich Infant School. The class teachers are responsible for developing medium term plans. Time allocation follows the recommendations of the agreed syllabus which is 5% of teaching time; 36 hours for Key Stage 1 and a recommended half an hour a week for EYFS.

## **ASSESSMENT**

The agreed syllabus provides descriptions of levels of attainment which are used to assess pupil's standards and monitor their progress. Through activities, for example discussion with pupils, group activities, marking and guiding their work, observing, displaying work, asking and answering questions, teachers are continually finding out about their pupils' achievements. These records will inform the statement made on each child's end of year report. By the end of Key Stage One most pupils achieve expected levels.

## **EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

Every child is entitled to be taught RE regardless of their age, culture, gender, background or special need or disability. The provision for RE is in accordance with the school's equal opportunities policy. In accordance with the aims of the school the pupils will develop an appreciation of and respect for the beliefs and philosophies of others. Pupils will be encouraged to value the rich variety of cultural traditions and lifestyles represented in Great Britain. It is acknowledged and respected that deep beliefs are held in the area of Religious Education. It is therefore our aim to deal with any matters arising as sensitively as possible. Provision for children with special educational needs, including more able children will follow the school's policies in these areas. Children's needs are carefully monitored and supported through teacher planning and assessment. This enables objectives, tasks, teaching methods, resources and teacher/adult input to be matched to pupil needs. It

includes the use of more challenging objectives or extension materials and tasks for the more able.

## **RESOURCES**

There is a range of artefacts, books and pictures kept in the resources room and the link room and online resources available through [www.request.org.uk](http://www.request.org.uk) in accordance with the new Kent Agreed syllabus

## **HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELL-BEING**

Visits to places of worship and other RE related venues are encouraged as an important part of developing a child's understanding of the role religion plays in communities. Prior to all visits, staff will carry out a formal risk assessment. Staff will ensure that the context of the learning that will take place during the visit, will not undermine a child's own faith or challenge their belief and will only be presenting a knowledge base about a faith. Permission will be sought from parents/carers for each child to attend the visit. We acknowledge the sensitivity that some families may have with regard to their child visiting another place of worship, staff must ensure that they do all they can to assure parents and encourage pupil participation.

## **WITHDRAWAL**

We acknowledge the right of parents to withdraw their child(ren) for RE and those of teachers to withdraw from teaching the subject. We aim to provide an open and inclusive curriculum which can be taught to all pupils, by all teachers. We do not, therefore, anticipate any requests for withdrawal. However, any questions or concerns can be discussed with the class teacher supported by the subject coordinator and the headteacher.

## **POLICY REVIEW**

This policy was reviewed by Mrs Shaw in June 2023.