

# Phoenix Infant and Nursery School



## RE Policy

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# **Phoenix Infant and Nursery School RE policy**

## **Rationale**

This policy explains our approach to the teaching of RE and the contribution it has to our curriculum at Phoenix. This policy will assist teachers in their planning and delivery of humanities and RE subjects.

Religious Education helps children to learn about themselves and our world and helps them to make decisions about what matters most in life as well as develop an appreciation for the wonder and mysteries of life. RE plays an important part in developing the spiritual, moral, cultural and social development of all children and will support pupils' understanding of British Values such as acceptance and respect for others who hold different world views. This enables them to cope with the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life and living in a society of diverse religions and beliefs. Our teaching of Religious Education follows the guidance given in the latest Agreed Syllabus for Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire.

At Phoenix we believe in a hands-on and cross curricular approach that helps children deepen their understanding of these subjects.

## **Intent**

The RE policy is consistent with the philosophy and aims of the school as expressed in our school prospectus and on our website. There are also some aims specific to the key subjects of this policy.

- Be challenged to think a little more deeply about life and create their own visions, reflecting on the teaching of the religions of the world.
- Start to think about their own beliefs, attitudes and values whilst developing their understanding and empathy towards others, respecting their right to hold different beliefs to their own.
- Learn about religions and also from them. Also learn how the influence of beliefs, values and traditions affects everyday life for individuals, communities and cultures.
- Acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other religions represented in Great Britain.
- Explore the fundamental questions of life and how they are answered by different faiths, enabling the pupils to express their own understanding and beliefs in the light of knowledge, thought and experiences.

- Enables pupils to consider British Values, including tolerance and respect for other people's views and to celebrate the diversity in society.

## **Implementation**

Teachers at Phoenix carefully plan the curriculum to ensure that there is progression through year groups. The long term planning identifies the units/topics to be taught throughout the year. Medium term planning gives more detail into each unit and identifies the learning objectives that will be covered.

Children in the Foundation Stage are taught through the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. RE themes can be found within the Personal, Social and Emotional and Understanding of the World areas of development. Topics within the Foundation Stage are planned based on the children's current interests so change from year to year. When planning, teachers ensure that these topics cover all areas of the curriculum.

RE is a statutory subject and has the status of a core subject. Our scheme of work is taught in accordance with the Locally Agreed Syllabus from Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. RE should be taught in clearly identifiable time and sufficient time is given so that pupils can meet the standards and expectations set out in the Agreed Syllabus to provide coherence and progression in RE learning. The minimum hours of teaching RE at Key Stage 1 is 36 hours a year.

At Phoenix we use variety of teaching styles and active and interactive approaches to ensure the curriculum is stimulating and exciting for the children to learn. We aim to provide creative, fun and inspiring RE lessons which are sequenced so that new knowledge and skills build on what has been taught.

## **Cross Curricular Links**

Teachers are encouraged to include links to other subjects within their planning and teaching of RE. These may include Literacy through the use of writing or drama, Art and Design or Music. We use religious artefacts and memorable experiences to enhance learning. Children will undertake their own visits to varied places of worship such as All Hallows Church in Gedling and a synagogue.

## **Impact**

Progression of children's knowledge and skills will be demonstrated in whole class floor books, children's individual themed books and also in class termly assessments.

Children will be curious and ask increasingly challenging questions about religion, belief, values and human life.

Children will extend their knowledge and understanding of religions and worldviews, recognising their local, national and global contexts.

Children will learn to express their own ideas in response to the material they engage with, identifying relevant information, selecting examples and giving reasons to support their ideas and views.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Monitoring will take the form of:

- Observations
- Work scrutiny
- Learning Walks
- Displays
- Teacher assessments
- Discussions with children
- Lesson drop-ins

The RE co-ordinator is responsible for keeping staff up to date with any curriculum developments and how to incorporate these into their practice.

### **Reporting**

Meetings with parents are held twice a year where information about their child's knowledge and understanding of RE will be shared. The work children have covered throughout the year and the skills they have obtained will be shared through an annual report, sent out in July.

### **Equal Opportunities**

The teaching of RE is a vital part of our school curriculum policy which states that we provide a broad and balanced education for all our children.

At our school, we provide access to our curriculum regardless of ability. We provide learning opportunities that are matches to the needs of the children whatever their learning needs. RE will be taught in accordance with the school's ethos of equal entitlement of all children to a broad, balanced and exciting curriculum regardless of physical ability, race, cultural or religious background.

### **Right of Withdrawal**

Parents and carers of a child at our school have the right to withdraw their child from RE. If a parent asks for their child to be partly or wholly excused from attending any RE, then we must comply unless the request is withdrawn. We will, as we feel RE is such an important subject for future citizenship, talk to the family and discuss their concerns and try and allay any fears and promote the positives of good RE teaching.

## **British Values**

RE makes a key educational contribution to pupil's explorations of British values. Teaching the Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire Agreed Syllabus for RE will enable pupils to learn to think for themselves about British values. At Phoenix we are committed to serving the community. We recognise the multi-cultural, multi-faith and ever changing nature of the UK. We also understand the vital role we have in ensuring that groups or individuals within the school are not subjected to intimidation or radicalisation by those wishing to unduly, or illegally, influence them. As well as actively promoting these values, the opposite also applies: we would actively challenge pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British values, including 'extremist' views.

## **Resources**

A variety of materials to support the teaching and learning of RE are available in the store room. The resources are sorted into boxes and are clearly labelled on the shelves. The resources are audited as needed. Humanities and RE has an annual budget managed by the co-ordinator. Resource requests and ideas are sought from staff. Phoenix Infant and Nursery school also has access to the Nottinghamshire Education Library Service where books and resources can be ordered to support topics.