



BEAUFORT AND LANGLEY SCHOOLS POLICY FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education has two aspects. The first is concerned with children's personal feelings and their experiences, questions and responses to life. The second is concerned with a body of knowledge, mostly beyond the children's personal experiences. This covers the ways in which religious communities express their feelings and beliefs through their behaviour, values and general organisation. At both schools there are high moral standards that are woven in to all aspects of school life and learning.

Aims

- a. To promote children's spiritual, moral and social development
- b. To promote understanding and raise awareness of different religions
- c. To develop children's own beliefs and values

This will be achieved by helping children to:

1. Understand their place in the natural order of things;
2. Explore their relationships with family, groups and community;
3. Learn about the guidance offered by leaders and traditions;
4. Develop their awareness of special times, places, people and events.

Organisation and Resources

At Langley RE is an integral part of school life influencing behaviour and morals. It will be specifically taught throughout the school as appropriate. When planning teachers must recognise the religion of the children in their class and of Birmingham as a whole, taking into account the most represented groups. Christianity is the main religion and must be taught. A variety of learning and teaching techniques will be used and these will include: stories, artefacts, pictures, visits and visitors. Resources will be stored in a central area.

Foundation Stage classes will work within the Foundation Stage curriculum. The children will concentrate on moral and social skills rather than addressing specific religious content. Christianity and other religions will be addressed at major festivals.

KS1 and KS2 classes work with Birmingham's agreed syllabus for RE and the content of this document informs planning. Where possible, RE will be planned within the creative curriculum and there will be additional themed festival days.

The syllabus consists of 24 spiritual and moral dispositions, each of which has key questions to help focus planning. These dispositions are grouped into 6 clusters with the following headings:

- Creativity
- Compassion
- Choice
- Commitment
- Contemplation
- Community

At Beaufort School RE promotes the principles of the Birmingham Agreed Syllabus in enabling pupils to increase their knowledge, understanding and sense of value of World Religions and the place of religion within our community. There is an emphasis on the religions represented within the school population. Thus to encourage pupils to think critically and express their feelings and opinions about moral issues.

In KS 1 and 2 RE is topic based, to enable pupils to explore the religious dimensions of life with attention to the spiritual development referred to by Flo Longhorn as the “numinous self”. This is the development of a feeling of wonder, a sense of mystery, extending sensory awareness, curiosity, an awareness of religious feelings.

In EYFS RE is delivered through The EYFS framework guidance of ‘Understanding the World’, both in people and communities and the world.

Entitlement

All children are entitled to a broad and balanced presentation of religious life, dealt with in appropriate depth. They will have access to religious traditions over their primary school life. All children must take part in RE unless specifically withdrawn by their parents/carers. Teaching staff have the same entitlement. Children from ethnic minorities will be given due consideration and their differences respected.

Assessment

Assessment will be mainly formative. It will cover the development of children’s understanding about religion, their personal response to it and on their willingness and ability to reflect on the issues, questions and experiences, which emerge from it.

Assessment will be informal and intuitive. It will be drawn from discussion, questioning, listening to conversations and encouraging self-expression. This will be recorded centrally.

At Beaufort RE achievement is recorded on B squared against P levels

All the schemes of work at Langley are underpinned by the human rights of everyone under 18 years of age as outlined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The relevant articles from the Convention will be referred to as appropriate within specific planning.

Summary

RE has a major contribution to make in helping children develop a positive and considerate attitude towards the many religions within our diverse society.

Reviewed and Updated November 2016