

Policy Statement for Religious Education

Philosophy

Together we believe, Together we achieve

The philosophy at Broomwood Primary is to enable pupils to develop a clearer understanding of their own values and beliefs while respecting those of others in line with Trafford Education Authority's agreed syllabus of 2011-2016. We also believe that Religious Education should make a significant contribution to the school's ethos through the encouragement of positive caring attitudes between: staff, staff and pupils, staff and parents, school and visitors, the school and the community, the school and external agencies, the school and students and its ex-pupils. Pupils are encouraged to adopt a positive approach to good behaviour. A sense of belonging and self esteem amongst pupils is also promoted.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN BROOMWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Although religious education is not part of the national curriculum, it must have equal standing in relation to the core and foundation subjects in order to promote the developments of the whole child. The school recognises that the religious traditions within Trafford are mainly Christian, yet we take account of the teaching and practices of other religions represented in society.

Learning about and from religion enriches and extends the understanding of pupils about the world in which they live in. Religion is an aspect of life which has reality for the majority of people in the world today, in the past and in all cultures. All pupils should have the opportunity to explore the nature of religion in such a way that their views are based on sound knowledge and thoughtful reflection.

Through religious education pupils will be encouraged to:

- Develop a sensitive and critical interest in the spiritual dimension in life
- Investigate religious traditions, beliefs and practices
- Reflect upon experiences and mysteries of life
- Recognise the significance of awe and wonder in religious belief
- Engage in their own search of meaning
- Develop an awareness of their own identity and worth
- Be aware of what it is to have religious commitment
- Understand the importance and influence of religion on societies and cultures
- Develop insight into and respect for the beliefs of others
- Observe, explore and discover from firsthand experience and from a variety of sources
- Express their own responses
- Imaginatively and in a variety of ways
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Through these aims we hope to meet our school vision with every child

“Achieve, believe and succeed for a brighter future”.

Collective Worship

A collective act of worship is carried out daily in school and this is mainly of a Christian nature. The Act aims to provide the opportunity for the pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs. During Wednesday's assemblies the children are given the opportunity to learn about other world faiths or festivals. Pupils are encouraged to develop a sense of community spirit and common ethos. Shared values are promoted and positive attitudes are reinforced. The importance of this philosophy is emphasised to help each pupil understand the need for orderly life in school and in the wider community.

During the daily Act of Worship children have the opportunity to praise and celebrate through song and music. They also have the chance to pray or reflect on what has been discussed or talked about. Visiting religious leaders from the local community are welcome and often take part in school assemblies.

Assembly and Parents

It is the policy of the school to encourage pupils to participate in assemblies and to share the excellent work which they do in school. Good work and Golden Book assemblies are held weekly, where pupil's work is shared and celebrated. These assemblies are led by year 6 pupils. Parents and carers are always very welcome to attend these assemblies.

Broomwood School respects parent's right to withdraw their children from School Assemblies, the Collective Act of Worship and from RE lessons.

Religious Studies and SEN

All children should be presented with the opportunity to experience success and enjoyment in RE, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, ability or disability. We are aware that within our school community there may be differences in race and culture, and care is taken not to offend those who are not of the Christian Faith.

The school welcomes and values disabled people to be an active part of the school.

Broomwood Primary School is keen to make sure that we do not make it difficult for disabled children, young people and adults to be involved in every part of school life. We have a legal duty not to discriminate against disabled people and to monitor how many of our pupils, staff, parent/carers and governors are disabled under the Disability Discrimination Act 2005.

Broomwood Primary School recognises that disabled people are very diverse and include people with a physical impairment, visual impairment, hearing impairment, learning difficulty, specific learning difficulty(e.g dyslexia) mental health issues, people who are deaf, British sign language users and people with long term health conditions.

Planning

At Broomwood Primary School curriculum planning is approached in a thematic way. The topics are built into a two year rolling programme for each class to ensure balance, continuity and progression. Each half term the chosen topic incorporates all relevant curriculum areas. Those aspects of the National Curriculum not covered in this way are taught on a subject specific basis.

The RE content is clearly identified through teacher planning. The medium term planning identifies broad coverage and general learning objective. The weekly planning focuses on more detailed and differentiated planning and includes:

Planning is taken from Trafford's 2011 syllabus and identifies the following:

- All children from FS to Y6 will study Christianity, Buddhism, Sikhism, Humanism, Judaism and Hinduism.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

In foundation stage Religious Education is assessed through everyday focused observations. Evidence is stored in the children's folder. For keystage 1 and 2 the children are given an end of unit task to complete, which is then assessed by the teacher. This happens at the end of every term.

Organisation/Teaching and learning styles

It is important in our school that all teachers, whatever their personal belief or standpoint, feel secure and comfortable in teaching religious education. Teaching methods are likely to include storytelling, visits to places of worship, discussion and debate and the use of artefacts. Pupils will need to be helped to handle and understand religious language, symbolism and meaning. Where possible, pupils will be able to learn from direct experience of different religious places, leaders and practitioners.. Opportunities for pupils to talk, listen read and write are provided, and teacher will, where possible, create opportunities for pupils to reflect and consider their personal responses and feeling.

Equal Opportunities and Inclusion

The School welcomes and values disabled people taking an active part of school life. Broomwood Primary School is keen to make sure that we do not make it difficult for disabled children, young people and adults to be involved in every part of school life. We have a legal duty not to discriminate against disabled people and to comply with the Equalities Act 2010.

Broomwood Primary School recognises that disabled people are very diverse and include people with a physical impairment, visual impairment, hearing impairment, learning difficulty, specific learning difficulty (e.g. dyslexia), mental health issues, people who are deaf, British sign language users and people with long term health conditions.

Broomwood Primary School is committed to challenging discrimination and promoting equality at all levels and in all aspects.

Gifted and Talented

Children at Broomwood Primary School are valued as unique individuals. When a child is particularly talented in any area we do our best to stretch them and help them to grow and to develop. The targets set for the child and the curriculum and we try to help all children to enjoy achieving their best.

Health and Safety

- Pupils are expected to use materials and tools safely in accordance with health and safety guidelines.
- When any aspect of ICT is used, the E safety policy will be followed.

Resources

We have sufficient resources in our school to be able to teach all our religious education teaching units. We keep resources for religious education in a central store where there is a separate box of equipment and a collection of religious artefacts for each religion.