



Stockland C of E Primary Academy

Religious Education Policy 2019

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Aims

The principal aim of RE is to explore what people believe and what difference this makes to how they live, so that pupils can gain the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to handle questions raised by religion and belief, reflecting on their own ideas and ways of living.

The Legal Requirement

The Education Reform Act 1988 requires R.E should be taught:

- to all pupils in full-time education except for those withdrawn at the request of their parents
- as part of the curriculum, and should promote the 'spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils'.
- As an agreed syllabus which reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, while taking into account the teachings and practices of other principal religions represented in the world.

The Agreed Syllabus

The teaching staff at Stockland Academy follow the Agreed Syllabus for Devon(2019).

At foundation stage children get an insight into Faith and Culture through the Area of Learning 'Knowledge and Understanding of the World'. At Key Stage 1 the core religions are Christianity, Judaism and Islam. At Key stage 2 the core religions are Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Judaism.

Elements

There are three elements to the teaching of R.E:

1. Making Sense of Beliefs

Identifying and making sense of religious and non-religious beliefs and concepts; understanding what these beliefs mean within their traditions; recognising how and why sources of authority (such as texts) are used, expressed and interpreted in different ways, and developing skills of interpretation

2. Understanding the Impact

Examining how and why people put their beliefs into practice in diverse ways, within their everyday lives, within their communities and in the wider world.

3. Making Connections

Evaluating, reflecting on and connecting the beliefs and practices studied; allowing pupils to challenge ideas studied, and the ideas studied to challenge pupils' thinking; discerning possible connections between these and pupils' own lives and ways of understanding the

world.

What characterises Religious Education at Stockland Academy?

At Stockland Academy all our policies and practices are linked to our 'Teaching and Learning Policy'.

- Teachers are encouraged to think creatively when planning the R.E learning – to not rely exclusively on the Devon Agreed Syllabus and guidance to shape the theme, but to think about planning interesting and engaging units that stimulate imaginations and discussions.
- We try to utilise special events (such as religious festivals) and exhibitions whenever possible. Our school production includes the Nativity and is performed in the local churches.
- We think that there should be a strong link between the Academy and the local church and as such the Vicar comes into the Academy twice a month to take the Collective Worship as well as a monthly visit from the Open the Book team. Families are encouraged to attend Family Services through notices in the newsletter and on the website.
- We maximise first hand and practical experiences using as many resources (objects, artefacts, people, places) as we can find as well as visits where appropriate. In our resources area we have boxes for each of the topics with pictures, books, artefacts, lists of websites etc for each world religion.
- We think visits play an important part and with the strong link that we have with the local church we are able to visit as often as we would like.
- We think discussion is a very important aspect of R.E., particularly when thinking about what we can learn from world religions. We do not want R.E to be about completing worksheets and do not feel it is necessary to record every aspect of every lesson.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development in Religious Education

R.E plays a key role in pupils' spiritual and moral development, and makes a distinctive contribution to social and cultural development.

In addition, the group work helps develop the moral, social and cultural elements of R.E through discussions such as knowing and understanding our responsibilities to others, respecting the needs of others, how our behaviour can affect others and how we can make a difference by our own actions.

R. E Topics – Devon Agreed Syllabus