

# BOWES HUTCHINSON'S C OF E VOLUNTARY AIDED SCHOOL



## POLICY DOCUMENT

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### School Vision

Love life, God, each other.

With love, I can and I will.

Together we will succeed

Live courageously

Learn everyday

Date Revised: October 2020

Date for Review: October 2021

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

# **BOWES HUTCHINSON'S C OF E VOLUNTARY AIDED SCHOOL**

## **Rationale**

Religious Education (RE) along with the national curriculum subjects, forms the basic curriculum. Indoctrination and conversion are not part of the educational process and therefore have no place in religious education. It is an educational subject in its own right, taught against educational criteria. Religious education is to enable children to have the vocabulary, knowledge and opportunities to explore their own spirituality and beliefs.

This includes:

- Identifying, naming, describing and giving accounts in order to build up a coherent picture of each religion
- Explaining the meaning of religious language, stories and symbolism
- Explaining similarities and differences between and within religions
- Considering the active relevance of Religion within modern life
- Giving an informed and considered response to religious and moral issues
- Reflecting on what might be learnt from religion in the light of one's own beliefs and experiences
- Identifying and responding to questions of meaning within religion
- Identifying the impact and making connections in their own learning

As a Church of England Voluntary Aided School, Bowes Hutchinson must provide RE according to the provisions of the Trust Deed. Those section of the 1988 Education Act which refer to the need for RE to be non-denominational do not apply to Aided schools.

The school follows the Guidelines for Religious Education of the Leeds Diocesan Board of Education. The Durham Diocesan RE Syllabus for Church Aided Schools is also used as a resource.

## **RE in a church school context**

It is anticipated that in Church schools, religious education will be a high profile subject which will benefit from:

- A wide range of Christian resources including artefacts
- A close link with the local Church family
- The faith commitment of governors and staff
- A Christian vision which will permeate the whole curriculum, but may find particular emphasis in this subject
- The Christian foundation of the school

## **Aims**

Religious Education should help pupils to:

- Acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and the other principal religions represented in Great Britain
- Develop an understanding of the influence of beliefs, values and traditions on individuals, communities, societies and cultures, and

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- Make their own spiritual journey.

## **Objectives**

### **Foundation Stage**

At the Foundation Stage, children's religious education related learning will make a variety of contributions to the seven areas of learning and enable them to work towards the early learning goals. Children follow a whole KS1 curriculum, dovetailed with and supplemented by the EYFS curriculum. By the end of the Foundation Stage, children will have particular opportunities to:

- Respond to significant experiences showing a range of feelings where appropriate
- Have a developing awareness of their own needs, views and feelings and be sensitive to the needs, views and feelings of others
- Begin to know about their own cultures and beliefs and those of other people
- Have a developing respect for their own cultures and beliefs and those of other people

### **Key Stage 1**

By the end of Key Stage 1, pupils will increasingly have opportunities to:

- a) Learn about Christianity and one other principal religion in depth (Judaism)
- b) Encounter some special events, places, people and objects connected with the religious studies
- c) Listen and talk about some stories from religious traditions and begin to identify similarities and differences
- d) Reflect on and talk about puzzling questions which arise from their study of religions, their own experiences and their encounters with the natural world
- e) Think about themselves, their feelings and their relationships with others and begin to develop positive attitudes to diversity and difference giving careful consideration to the views of others

### **Key Stage 2**

By the end of Key Stage 2, pupils will increasingly have opportunities to:

- a) Learn about and develop their knowledge and understanding of Christianity and two other principal religions in depth (Judaism and Sikhism)
- b) Encounter key events, places, people and objects connected to their religious studies and discuss their purposes and functions
- c) Consider the meaning of symbols, stories and festivals for members of faith communities
- d) Explore questions of meaning and mystery and use times of stillness to work out their own response to these
- e) Evaluate different points of view and show sensitivity to those whose beliefs differ from their own

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- f) Relate their work in Religious Education to other areas of the curriculum and their developing knowledge of the world around them

### **Schemes of Work**

The schemes of work form part of the 'Religious Education Guidelines'. They show a whole school approach to the planning and delivery of RE and take into account continuity and progression. They use the Leeds and York Diocesan Education Team Religious Education syllabus as a framework and the Understanding Christianity RE resource. The pupils also have opportunities in cross curricular experiences in the rich and broad curriculum offered to them. These are indicated on the Medium Term Mind Maps

### **Assessment**

Pupils development and performance will be assessed through a range of assessment techniques in line with the school policy. In particular the use of Assessment Grids for both the end RE units taught and the end of each Key Stage.

### **Withdrawal**

Under the terms of the 1988 Education Reform Act, parents have the right to withdraw their children from the teaching of Religious Education. However, in choosing a Church School, it is expected that parents will commit themselves to their child's full participation in the Christian life of the School.

### **Support**

Religious Education within the school is supported by the governors, parents and local church. Regular visits are made to the Parish Church and Family Services are held in St Giles' Church. The vicar contributes to RE in school and there is a rota of officiating ministers who conduct weekly Collective Worship. Members of the church community are available to talk to the children and explore spirituality.

Staff development is through INSET and curriculum/staff meetings, supported by a diocesan SLA to provide training and networking opportunities.

Mrs C. A. Matthewman  
Headteacher