



Barton Primary School

Reviewed on:	January 2018
Next Review:	January 2020
Staff Responsibility	Headteacher
Governor responsibility	FGB
Signed by Chair	

Religious Education Policy

Rationale

Barton Primary School believes that RE supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Our school aims to promote sustainability and an awareness of wider global issues through our curriculum and the links made with our local and global communities. We aim to equip each child with the skills they need for lifelong learning. Our schools values are belonging, enjoyment, creativity, challenge, independence, reflection and respect.

Religious Education at Barton Primary School is taught in accordance with the Hampshire Agreed Syllabus. Pupils are taught to respect each other, the school and the wider community. All pupils receive teaching of RE which covers Hinduism, Christianity, Judaism and Islam. There are assemblies focused on key festivals where pupils are encouraged to explore themes and embrace a multi-cultural and diverse society.

We aim to:

- Develop pupil's knowledge and understanding of, and their ability to respect the values of Christianity and the other principle religions represented in Great Britain.
- Explore different faiths to help them understand, tolerate and respect different Religions, beliefs, values and traditions (including ethical life stances) and understand the influence of those on individuals, communities, societies and cultures.
- Consider questions of meaning and purpose in life.
- Enhance pupil's spiritual, moral, cultural and social development by:
 - Encouraging awareness of the fundamental issues of life raised by human experience, and how religious teaching can relate to them.
 - Responding to such questions with reference to the teachings and practices of religions and to their own understanding and experience.
 - Reflecting on their own beliefs, values and experiences in light of their studies.

- Develop pupil's sense of identity and belonging, preparing them for life as citizens in a multi-cultural society.
- Develop enquiry skills through the distinctive use of language, listening and empathy.
- Reflect on, analyse and evaluate beliefs, values and practices and communicate their responses.

Barton Primary School aims to achieve this by:

- Providing engaging and creative learning which is accessible to all pupils and where all can achieve their potential.
- Foster in pupils an interest in religion and traditions in order to develop understanding of key religious traditions in different faiths.
- Provide an environment where pupils feel they can ask questions to deepen their understanding.

RE at Barton Primary School does not aim to...

- Convert or indoctrinate pupils in any faith.
- Push any one set of ideas onto pupils.
- Assert one faith over another; we aim to treat all faiths with the same amount of dignity and respect.

2. Scope, including Statutory Requirements and Essential Principles

This policy is written and updated with reference to:

- The statutory legal requirements set out in circular 1/94 and the 1988 Education Act, Religious Education is a statutory requirement for all pupils registered in maintained schools and academies.
- Section 78(1) of the 2002 Education Act, RE is used to contribute to the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils and of society, and to help prepare children and young people for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.
- A number of legislative changes within and beyond Education in both Great Britain and Europe have implications for RE. The Human Rights Act 1998, the Race Relations Amendment Act 2000 and the Equality Act 2010 contribute to the "bigger picture" within which RE is provided in schools and experienced by pupils.

3. Process and Practice

- We are meeting our statutory requirement for pupils regarding the school curriculum.
- The Education Act requires that an Agreed Syllabus 'must not be designed to convert pupils, or to urge a particular religion or religious belief on pupils'. At Barton Primary School we reflect this in our own units of work and individual teaching.

Withdrawal from RE

In accordance with circular 1/94 parents do have the right to withdraw pupils from statutory RE. It should be noted that pupils do not have the right to withdraw themselves from the subject, and other teachers do not have the right to withdraw pupils from the subject.

- If a parent wishes to withdraw their child from RE it should be put in writing to the Head Teacher and a copy sent to the subject leader. In all circumstances when the Head Teacher receives a letter of withdrawal from a parent, contact with the subject leader of RE should be made so as to discuss the issue.
- The parent will be contacted by either the Head Teacher or Subject Leader to discuss their concerns with their child taking RE and the benefits of taking the subject.
- If the parent wishes to go ahead with the withdrawal the pupil's class teacher of RE will be informed. The child will be then removed from the class for RE.
- It is then the school's responsibility to arrange a place other than the RE classroom for the pupil to go whilst RE is taking place.
- Once a pupil has been withdrawn from RE they will not receive progress reports from the subject.