

# BURHAM CE PRIMARY

## Religious Education policy statement

### Our Christian Values

All members of staff and pupils are expected to apply our Christian values of in all aspects of school life. The children especially, are given value stickers and awarded certificates for outstanding application of these principles that underpin all our activities. Our main Christian values are

#### Forgiveness:

We encourage everyone to follow God's teaching to forgive and always accept forgiveness without limit. We seek to develop a deep understanding that forgiveness goes beyond saying 'sorry.' It also involves having a good understanding of what we have done wrong and making an effort to avoid repeating those wrongs.

#### Trust:

We believe and trust in God who loves each one of us. Trust is important in building positive relationships, especially with those who govern and support us in our daily lives.

#### Acceptance:

We are all unique children of God and are equally precious and loved by him. In our day-to-day activities we endeavour to show real care and value for ourselves and others, irrespective of our differences in opinions, colour, gender, religion or any other stereotypes. We aim to develop a deeper understanding of ourselves and others in order to maintain positive and fruitful relationships.

#### Compassion:

Just as Jesus demonstrated compassion for the sick, the poor and the helpless, we endeavour to do whatever we can to support those who are less fortunate than ourselves as we share in the lives of others.

#### Responsibility:

We have a responsibility to care for ourselves, friends and families. It is also important to try not to let others down when they are relying on us to fulfil our duties and promises.

## The Curriculum

### Introduction

Religious Education (RE) is an important subject at Burham Church of England Primary School. It is part of the Basic Curriculum and is taught in accordance with the Kent Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education (REAct 2012), as we are required to do by law. Also by law, RE must focus mainly on Christianity, whilst taking account of the other principal religions in Great Britain. We use the Canterbury Diocesan Scheme of Work as a basis to deliver this Agreed Syllabus and include aspects of Christianity appropriate to Primary Schools, as found in the Church of England's report on RE: 'Excellence and Distinctiveness' (2005).

## **Aims**

RE has a contribution to make towards the spiritual, moral, social and cultural education of each pupil. It involves Learning About Religion i.e. understanding what religious people believe and do, and how they express themselves (Attainment Target 1); and also Learning From Religion i.e. making sense of who we are, of life, and of right and wrong (Attainment Target 2). We encourage respect for religious commitment and for those holding different beliefs.

## **Time Allocation**

The Kent Agreed Syllabus requires a minimum 5% curriculum time for RE (REact Syllabus p11), which amounts to one hour a week at Key Stage One and 1.25 hours at Key Stage Two. (This is in addition to assembly time.) As a Church school, we make sure that this is fulfilled.

## **Programmes of Study**

The Agreed Syllabus must be taught from Reception and is linked to the Foundation Stage curriculum through the Early Learning Goals. Christianity is the main religion taught at this early stage, with other religions drawn on as appropriate. They are taught through 'special' themes eg. Special People, Special Places, Special Objects.

At Key Stage One, RE is predominantly about Christianity, with 2 of the 12 units on Judaism and 2 on Hinduism.

At Lower Key Stage Two, RE is also predominantly about Christianity, with 2 of the 12 units on Judaism and 2 on Islam.

At Upper Key Stage Two, half of the syllabus covers Christianity, with 2 of the 12 units on Judaism, 2 on Islam and 2 on Sikhism. Sikhism is taught in Year 6 as a transition to Secondary school, where it is taught again in Year 7.

All units in this scheme focus on one religion at a time, to avoid confusion and to do justice to the distinctiveness of each religion.

## **Approaches**

Each child has his/her own book specifically for RE work, but RE also includes creative and practical activities, discussion and role play (not always written follow up). We benefit from our close ties with the local church, the Faith Mission and Family Trust for Worship and special services and visitors to the lessons.

The Kent agreed syllabus emphasizes the importance of distinctive RE skills, such as enquiring, questioning, analysing and interpreting, as well as empathising and reflecting. Lessons are planned to develop each skill at a time.

## **Assessment**

RE is planned and assessed using the levels for the two attainment targets in the Syllabus but we are will be trialing a news system with a view to updating it. Instead of being assigned levels of attainment, the children will be assessed as 'emerging' 'expected' or 'exceeding.' The format the staff will use is an assessment record sheet with the statements highlighted to indicate whether the child is secure or not in their knowledge. This applies to both Key Stages.

**Withdrawal**

Parents have a right to withdraw their child from all or part of the RE curriculum. It would be appreciated if this were discussed with the head teacher before coming to a final decision.

**Full Review Date: May 2012**

**Reviewed July 2014**

**Updated April 2015**

**Updated November 2016**