



## Outwoods Primary School

Written: October 2012  
Re-Ratified: July 2015  
Review Date: July 2020

### **Reviewed by Co-ordinators June 2015**

#### **Religious Education.**

In accordance with legal requirements religious education is taught as a foundation subject at Outwards Primary School. It has equal standing with the core and other foundation subjects and is accessible to all pupils attending the school. The Staffordshire County Council Agreed Syllabus is followed which provides objectives for each of the four attainment targets in a scheme of work which incorporates progression. Our scheme is non-denominational and whilst it reflects the fact that religious traditions in Great Britain are mainly Christian, it also takes into account the teachings, beliefs and practices of some of the other religions represented in our country.

Parents retain the right to withdraw their children from all Religious Education lessons but not to be selective about what aspect their child studies. If children are withdrawn they are accommodated elsewhere within the school in a controlled environment. Separate provisions are made for Collective Worship.

#### **The Aims of Religious Education .**

The aims of teaching Religious Education in this school are: -

- To identify and consider ways in which some human beings have approached and answered questions about the meaning and purpose of existence.
- To enter objectively, but imaginatively, into the spirit of Christian and other religious traditions; exploring their responses to fundamental questions, understanding their beliefs and practices and their influences on social and cultural life.
- To develop the ability to interpret and appreciate religious stories and imagery.
- To develop a thoughtful and creative attitude to their own and other peoples' experiences as well as formulating their own values and allegiances.

#### **Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development.**

The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils is not the unique preserve of religious education but it is very much an important part of these lessons. The intent is not to convert pupils or to urge a particular religion or religious belief on them. Nor is it to pass on large quantities of information. The school will try to ensure that within the curriculum pupils are able to widen their vision of themselves and develop their own informed values. They will be helped to understand some the major forces which shape our society and its values and to explore aspects of

their own cultural heritage. They will also be encouraged to develop positive attitudes towards diversity.

### Delivery of Religious Education.

The school has established a resource base which allows it to teach each of the six major world faiths. Although teaching focusses on Christianity and Islam, pupils will also learn about Hinduism, Sikhism and Buddhism during their time at Outwoods Primary School.

Each year group studies six units per year with the objectives for each being drawn from the Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus. These have been integrated, where possible, into the imaginative learning projects from the Cornerstones curriculum. Some of the units are planned by the school and others follow content suggested by Entrust.

The teaching cycle for each unit follows the same pattern of; issues, religion, meaning and life stance. Each element will be covered in one or two lessons depending on the nature of the class and the time available. The issues section does not need to contain any religious content. Its aim is to engage the children in the issues being discussed and allow them to share their own experiences. The religion and meaning lessons allow the children to explore how the issue is dealt with by a particular religion; or when appropriate, the approach of two religions can be compared and contrasted. The children will explore what this particular aspect of the religion means to believers and how it will impact their everyday lives. The life stance section allows the children to reflect on what they have learned during the unit and how they may incorporate this into their own personal belief system.

The use of artefacts is encouraged to engage the children and stimulate their questioning skills. Stories and videos, as well as non-fiction texts, will be used to convey ideas about the different religions. Drama and dance activities allow children to explore their responses to what they have learned and will help to encourage empathy and acceptance of diversity. Art and design activities are also a beneficial way of allowing children to articulate their own thoughts and feelings as part of the life stance section. Pupils are also encouraged to share their own beliefs and experiences with their peers.

The school welcomes visiting experts from different faiths to come in to lessons and hold assemblies. We are also developing links with parents who are willing to come into school to share their personal experiences of their faith. Visits to places of worship are also encouraged.

Teachers have the right to withdraw from teaching religious education. Internal arrangements are made to accommodate this.

### Assessment.

The children are assessed against the learning outcomes contained with the Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus. These outcomes have been linked to particular levels for each key stage by the syllabus. Assessments will help to track progress and attainment throughout the school and help to assist in the transfer of pupils to Key Stage 3.