



Cranbrook
Primary School

Cranbrook Primary School RE Policy

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Religious Education (RE) is not part of the National Curriculum and so the formulation of an Agreed Syllabus is the responsibility of the local education authority. At Cranbrook Primary School we follow the Redbridge Agreed Syllabus and have adopted the aim of Religious Education as stated within it:

Please read this policy alongside our RSHE, PSHE Policies and the Equality policies.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

“The aim of Religious Education is to promote the spiritual, moral, social, cultural and intellectual development of pupils and of the society by encouraging an exploration of and response to those aspects of religion and human experience which raise fundamental questions of belief and value.” (pg. 10 Redbridge Agreed Syllabus).

Religious Education (RE) enables children to investigate and reflect on some of the most fundamental questions asked by people. At Cranbrook, we develop the children’s knowledge and understanding of the major world faiths, and we address the fundamental questions in life, for example, the meaning of life and the existence of a divine spirit. We enable children to develop a sound knowledge not only of Christianity but also of other world religions, especially those that are the main faiths of children within our school. Children reflect on what it means to have a faith and to develop their own spiritual knowledge and understanding. We help the children learn from religions as well as about religions. We promote respect and tolerance of all faiths. Children develop a positive self-image and foster a code of moral behavior required for living in a harmonious community.

The aims of religious education are to help children:

- develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other major world religions, and value systems found in Britain;
- develop an awareness of spiritual and moral issues in life experiences;
- develop an understanding of what it means to be committed to a religious tradition;
- be able to reflect on their own experiences and to develop a personal response to the fundamental questions of life;
- develop an understanding of religious traditions and to appreciate the cultural differences in Britain today;
- develop investigative and research skills and to enable them to make reasoned judgments about religious issues;
- Have respect for other peoples’ views and to celebrate the diversity in society.

TEACHING AND LEARNING STYLE

At Cranbrook, we base our teaching and learning style in RE on the key principle that good teaching in RE allows children both to learn about religious traditions and to reflect on what the religious ideas and concepts mean to them. Our teaching enables children to extend their own sense of values and promotes their spiritual growth and development. We encourage children to think about their own views and values in relation to the themes and topics studied in the RE curriculum.

Our teaching and learning styles in RE enable children to build on their own experiences and extend their knowledge and understanding of religious traditions. We use their experiences at religious festivals such as Eid, Diwali, Baisakhi and Christmas etc, to develop their religious thinking. We organise visits to local places of worship and invite representatives of local religious groups to come into school and talk to the children.

Children carry out research into religious topics. They study particular religious faiths and also compare the religious views of different faith groups on topics such as rites of passage or festivals. Children discuss religious and moral issues working individually or in groups.

We recognise the fact that all classes in our school have children of widely differing abilities, and so we provide suitable learning opportunities. We achieve this in a variety of ways, for example, by:

- setting common tasks which are open-ended and can have a variety of responses;
- using P4C (Philosophy for children) approaches;
- providing resources of different complexity, adapted to the ability of the child;
- Using classroom assistants to support the work of individuals or groups of children.

Teaching British Values

The DfE have reinforced the need “to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.”

The Government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent strategy.

As a school, Cranbrook actively promotes tolerance, fairness and respect for other faiths and the rule of law and democracy through a range of studies and is embedded across the curriculum.

Mutual Respect

Respect is at the heart of the school's values. Children learn that their behaviors have an effect on their own rights and those of others. At Cranbrook, we celebrate various themed weeks such as, World Religions Week and Black History and year groups have assemblies based on different religious festivals (Christmas, Diwali and Eid). We invite in speakers to share their religious beliefs. We are creating close links with places of worship and all members of the school community treat each other with respect.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

We promote understanding, similarities and tolerance diversity through our celebrations of different faiths and cultures. R.E. lessons reinforce messages of respect for others. Members of different faiths and religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school. To reflect on the similarities that exist in different faiths, the children visit places of worship that are important to different faiths, and visitors are invited to the school to talk about their own faiths. We invite Redbridge Ambassadors (Christian education project) of faith into school when possible to give presentations on their faiths and beliefs, endeavoring to answer any questions that pupils may have.

Strategies for teaching re

RE is taught through class discussion, written works, sharing of experiences, lifestyles, practical activities (art, drama, and visits to places of interest in the local area, exploration of artefacts, songs, research in books and online, videos and visitors to the school.)

Cross-Curricular Learning

At Cranbrook, our aim is to ensure that RE is linked to other subjects, where appropriate. Religious Education, must be incorporated into each year group's cross-curricular topic overview. Children will be given the opportunity to learn about religion and produce quality pieces of work through other subjects such as History, ICT, Art and Literacy.

RE and Computing

We use computing where appropriate in religious education. The children find, select and analyse information, using the school iPad. They also use other devices to review, modify and evaluate their work and to improve its presentation.

Faith Projects

We work alongside with the Christian Education Project group. The Christian Education Project exists as a link between schools in the borough and the local church, conducting lessons and assemblies that aim to support our staff in the delivery of Christianity as part of the Agreed Syllabus. In addition, we visit different places of worship, as well as invite different faith leaders to come into schools to work with us.

FOUNDATION STAGE

We teach RE to all children in the school, including those in the Nursery and Reception classes which form our Foundation stage. RE is an integral part of the topic work covered during the year and is taught in a cross-curricular way. Aspects of faith are covered within the different areas of learning in the Early years in an age appropriate way.

We relate the religious education aspects of the children's work to the objectives set out in the Early Learning Goals, which underpin the curriculum planning for children aged three to five. Many of these fall within Understanding of the World.

EQUALITY

At Cranbrook, we teach RE to all children. The teaching of RE is a vital part of our school curriculum policy, which states that we provide a broad and balanced education for all our children. RE aims to meet the needs of all children through planned differentiation and resources. This will take into account the need to adapt lessons to account for children's different learning styles, especially those to whom English is an additional language, children with Specific Special Educational Needs and the Gifted and Talented pupils.

ASSESSMENT

We plan work and set tasks that are matched against the expectations in the Agreed Syllabus to ensure that we are enabling pupils to make progress appropriate to their age and ability. We report progress to parents on an annual basis, making specific, individual and accurate comments based on regular assessment against the learning outcomes identified. When marking RE work, teachers refer to the school's marking and feedback policy. We value and plan activities designed to engage pupils in reflection on their own beliefs and values. The lead teacher for RE keeps samples of displays in her file. These demonstrate what the expected level of achievement is in religious education for each age group in the school. Each year group have also developed an end of term assessment for RE which looks at children's memory skills in relation to the subject.

BLENDED LEARNING/ REMOTE LEARNING

In the unfortunate case where schools need to turn to remote teaching. Cranbrook Primary teachers are experienced and ready to teach RE via different platforms if need be. We have planning and resources that we are able to share and upload for parents and children to access through remote learning. If school did turn to remote teaching then RE will be taught according to the legal requirement of the age and stage of the children stated in the RE syllabus.

HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES

There are no specific health and safety issues relating to the delivery of RE but where artefacts are introduced children and teachers alike should be aware of the need for careful handling and due respect is given to the artefacts. When educational visits are arranged all necessary Risk Assessments must be completed and the need for respect from adults and children alike must be reiterated. Religious visitors must be supervised and shown due respect both in terms of what they say and show.

WITHDRAWAL

Parents/carers have a legal right to withdraw their child from Religious Education. It is always hoped that here at Cranbrook we can find a way to keep all children involved in RE. Should a parent/carers wish to do so, they must firstly request a meeting with the Headteacher to discuss the concerns in order to come to an agreement.

RESOURCES

We have sufficient resources in our school to be able to teach all our religious education teaching units, which we constantly update and review. They are kept in year groups.

Please see attached, the Redbridge RE Syllabus.