

## **Willington Primary School**

### **Policy on Religious Education**

#### **1 Introduction**

1.1 This policy contains the aims and objectives of Willington Primary's Religious Education based on the recommendations of the Durham County Council Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education.

#### **2 Rationale**

2.1 The 1988 Education Reform Act states that Religious Education should be taught to all pupils in a maintained school from the ages of five to 18.

2.2 Under the terms of the 1988 Education Reform Act, an agreed syllabus should "...reflect the fact that the religious traditions of Great Britain are in the main Christian but must also include teaching from the other principal world religions represented in Great Britain."

2.3 The school follows the legally adopted syllabus for Durham County Council, which is the statutory order for Religious Education. Provision is updated as necessary. The schemes of work adopted by the school reflect this aim, and meet the requirements of Durham's Agreed Syllabus 1995.

#### **3. Aims**

3.1 Religious Education offered at Willington Primary School aims to:

- acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other principal religions represented in Great Britain
- develop an understanding of the influence of beliefs, values and traditions on individuals, community, societies and cultures
- develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues, with reference to the principal religions represented in Great Britain
- enhance their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development by:

1) developing awareness of fundamental questions of life raised by human experience and how religious teaching can relate to them

2) responding to such questions with reference to the teachings and practices of religions and to their own understanding and experience

3) reflecting on their own beliefs, values and experiences in the light of their study

- develop a positive attitude towards other people, respecting their right to hold different beliefs from their own and towards living in a society of diverse religions.

#### **4. Objectives**

At Willington Primary School, the objectives of teaching with regards to Religious Education are:

4.1 To plan and implement schemes of work which will:

- reflect the aims of Religious Education
- take account of both Attainment Targets
- enable pupils to progress in terms of religious concepts, skills and attitudes
- provide a variety of learning experiences and activities using materials and techniques appropriate to the age and ability of the pupils concerned
- enable pupils to achieve according to their ability

4.2 To monitor and evaluate all schemes of work and the Religious Education Policy on a regular basis in accordance with the Durham County Guidelines and Agreed Syllabus

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

Religious Education contributes to the spiritual, moral, cultural and social development of pupils.

This is achieved through:

- 1) The subject content that is delivered
- 2) the attainment targets that are addressed, in particular AT2 'Reflection on Religion'
- 3) through the progress of teaching and learning that takes place in the classroom  
i.e. one that actively engages the pupils with the materials studied

Pupils are given the opportunity to:

- share their own feelings and experiences in a variety of ways
- learn to listen to and appreciate the points of view of others
- reflect on religious ideas in a personal search for meaning
- explore their own values and values of others
- appreciate silence and the value of stillness
- ask ultimate questions about life and living
- demonstrate care and responsibility for the environment
- raise money for local, national and international charities

## **6. Withdrawal**

Under the terms of the 1988 Education Reform Act, parents have the right to withdraw their children from the teaching of Religious Education. This withdrawal may be wholly or partly, depending upon the parental request. This school must comply with the parents request and no reason needs to be given.

To avoid misunderstanding, however, in accordance with the wishes of the Authority, the Head Teacher will establish with any parent wanting to exercise the right of withdrawal, a working understanding of the religious issues about which the parent would object to his or her child being taught, directly or indirectly, the practical implications of withdrawal and the circumstances in which the school can reasonably be expected to accommodate parental wishes.

Owing to the nature of the primary curriculum, there may be circumstances where questions of a religious nature arise, not specifically in Religious Education. Parents should be aware of this and realise in such cases it is impossible to withdraw children.

In the event of complaints relating to Religious Education, the school will consult with Authority by means of the Curriculum Support Teacher for Religious Education and/or the School's Link Inspector.

## **7 Monitoring and review**

- 7.1 This policy is monitored by the governing body, and will be reviewed in two years, or earlier if necessary.

**Signed:**

**Date:**