



The Legal Position

Snowsfields and Tower Bridge Primary Schools, in accordance with the 1988 Education Reform Act and the National Curriculum 2014, provides Religious Education for all pupils registered at the school. Religious Education is part of the basic curriculum but not part of the National Curriculum because it is taught in accordance with a locally agreed syllabus (in our case *Southwark*). We must stress that Religious Education has the same status and importance as any other subject and the same high standards are applied to Religious Education as to all other subjects. As a school we clearly believe that Religious Education should not attempt to alter a child's own beliefs but to provide a knowledge of their own and others' beliefs.

The Aims

The aims of Religious Education are drawn from the Southwark Agreed Syllabus and should help pupils to:

1. acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and the other principal religions represented in Great Britain.
2. develop an understanding of the influence of beliefs, values and traditions on individuals, communities, societies and cultures.
3. develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues with reference to the teaching of the six principal religions represented in Great Britain.
4. enhance their spiritual, moral, cultural and social development by:
 1. developing awareness of the 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 understanding and experience;
 3. reflecting on their own beliefs, values and experiences in light of their study.
5. develop respect for other people's right to hold different beliefs.
6. develop a positive attitude towards living in a society of diverse religions.

Equal opportunities

An appreciation of the specialness of each individual will be fostered by teaching an awareness, respect and understanding of the similarities and differences of the major world religions and the contribution that each person can make to society.

Opportunities are made for all pupils to have equal access to RE. The school provides a safe, secure environment where children of all beliefs will feel free to express their opinions, whilst respecting others' differing views.

Approaches to Teaching and Learning

Southwark Agreed Syllabus is used as a basis for the teaching of RE. Opportunities are given for children to develop the following skills and attitudes:

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RE POLICY

- **Skills:**
Investigation, Empathy, Synthesis, Interpretation, Evaluation, Application, Reflection, Analysis, and Expression.
- **Attitudes:**
Courage, Perseverance, Commitment, Fairness, Respect, Self-understanding, and Enquiry.

Children are also given the opportunity to develop speaking and listening skills, taking turns to speak and encouraged to have respect for others' views. Additionally, the discussion of explicit RE gives children the language and experience to help them enter into the realm and ideas of spirituality, where many things are harder to understand.

Active learning techniques should be used, which includes visits to places of religious significance organised by RE co-ordinator and class teacher. This offers the opportunity to integrate RE in topic work on building, local environment etc. Cross-curricular links will be developed across a wide range of curriculum subjects for example: art, drama, music and creative writing.

Teachers will be made aware of significant religious festivals throughout the school year and are encouraged to share these with the children. Where possible, these will be shared in phase assemblies or speciality weeks (like Arts Week).

Resources

A variety of resources will be used when appropriate, namely: books, artefacts, posters, videos, slides and people from local faith traditions. Resources in school are stored centrally.

Ways of Responding

Children will have the opportunity to respond to material in a variety of ways. This may be through: poems, stories, reports on visits, art work, design technology, music, drama, maths work, discussions, displays and through their own behaviour.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

Reporting takes place annually to parents. This include statements about what areas have been covered, both content and concepts. Development of children's social and moral behaviour is also reported. It is important to be aware of a child's developing confidence in discussing areas of personal concern or belief.

Withdrawal from Religious Education

Parents may withdraw their child from Religious Education provided they give written notification to the school. Teachers can exercise their right to withdraw from teaching the subject. However, we hope that all parents and teachers would feel comfortable with the type of Religious Education being taught at School.