



## Title: Religious Education Policy

### 1. Introduction and Legal Position

- 1.1 Buckingham Park Church of England Combined School is a Voluntary Aided School serving the whole community. We aim to provide the highest quality all round education, for each and every child, in partnership with parents, within the context of a Christian community. In short, 'Excellence, through God who strengthens us'.
- 1.2 The school, in accordance with its Trust Deed, provides religious education for all pupils registered at the school. Following advice from the Oxford Diocesan Board of Education, the Governors decided that religious education in our school should be based upon the Buckinghamshire agreed syllabus. Religious education has the same status and importance as any other subject and, as such, the same high standards are applied to this as to other subjects.
- 1.3 Religious Education reflects the mission statement and is central to the life and ethos of the school.

### 2. Aims of Religious Education

- 2.1 Religious education aims to help pupils to (summarised from the Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education p9):
  - Understand the nature, role and influence of religion in the world
  - Pursue personal quest for meaning, purpose and value
  - Formulate reasoned opinion/argument and handle controversial issues and truth claims
  - Develop understanding of and respect for different beliefs and life-styles
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- 2.2 The purpose of religious education does not include any attempt to alter a child's beliefs. Indeed, reflecting the inclusive ethos of the school our religious education programme is designed not 'to convert pupils or urge a particular religion or religious belief on pupils'. (DFE circular 1/94 paragraph 32).

### 3. Planning and Delivery

- 3.1 The religious education curriculum is based on two key aspects of learning laid down in the locally agreed syllabus:

Learning about religion - all pupils will learn about Christianity and other world faiths in a course in which Christianity will clearly predominate.

Learning from religion - the syllabus also requires us to build bridges between the pupils' own lives and the religious content that they explore. Whether the pupil comes from a particular faith background or none religious education should be relevant to their lives and engage them in meaningful learning that they can apply to life.

Teachers will use these strands when planning their lessons.

3.2 Teachers will explore the strands (above) in relation to a number of themes in each key stage. For example:

Key Stage One:

Special places  
Special people  
Special things  
Special stories  
Our World  
All about me  
Special occasions  
Belonging

Key Stage Two:

Worship  
Places of Worship  
Community  
Symbolism  
Sacred Texts  
Festivals  
Rites of Passage  
Pilgrimage  
Traditions  
Founders and Prophets  
Natural world  
Ethics and Moral Issues

3.3 The Oxford Diocese RE Scheme of Work, mapped to the Buckinghamshire Agreed Syllabus, is used as the basis for planning and assessment in RE.

#### **4. Teaching, Learning and Achievement**

4.1 Learning will focus on pupils' own experiences and self-concept, universal human experiences and concepts as well as religious experiences and concepts. It will be organised to encourage the development of skills (enquiry, reflection, empathy, expression, interpretation, evaluation, analysis, synthesis, application) and attitudes (self-awareness, respect for all, open-mindedness, appreciation and wonder) required by the locally agreed syllabus.

4.2 A variety of resources, styles, and techniques will be used as appropriate. Students will engage in activities which will also enable teachers to assess what they have learnt. Records kept will include information of pupils' experiences and judgements about their attainment and progress.

#### **5. Withdrawal from religious education**

5.1 Parents may withdraw their children from all or any part of religious education and teachers can exercise their right to withdraw from teaching the subject. However, we hope that all parents and teachers will feel comfortable with the type of religious education being taught at this school. Parents who wish to withdraw their children are asked provide written notification to this effect.

#### **6. Leadership**

6.1 A member of teaching staff will be appointed as the 'Subject Leader' and will take a particular interest in the teaching and learning in RE. The Subject Leader will 'champion' the subject, provide support for colleagues, monitor teaching and learning, and evaluate pupil progress.

## **7. Monitoring the policy**

7.1 The Governing Body and Senior Leadership Team will monitor the policy through regular updates at Governing Body meetings. The policy will be reviewed on a 3 year rolling basis.