Biscovey Primary Academy

Teaching and Learning Principles

Subject: Religious Education

'Roots to grow, wings to fly'

School Vision:

At Biscovey Primary Academy. we aim for every child to flourish in a nurturing environment, demonstrate respect and kindness, whilst building resilience and ambition for the future.

Our curriculum ensures that we deliver a range of topics across the age phases which develops sequential learning where pupils know more and can do more, ensuring that they are ready for their next stage in education.

Our nurturing ethos endeavours to support all children and their families. Through this approach we are able to work together to ensure that we meet the needs of all learners in our school.

We pride ourselves on delivering an ambitious curriculum, focusing beyond the academic curriculum, developing a child's individual character. Our core values; 'nurture', 'respect' and 'ambition' run through all areas of school life and learning which allows the whole child to develop into a confident and caring young individual. The Biscovey child shows respect, and through ambition, self-belief and courage approaches learning with an inquisitive mind.

'Roots to grow, wings to fly'

Subject Intent:

Our aim of Religious Education is to help children to acquire, understand and develop knowledge of religions represented around the world. Religious Education is taught throughout the school in such a way as to reflect the overall aims, values, and philosophy of the school. We want children to develop an awareness of themselves, those around them and the wider world by supporting them to explore the impact religion has on life and behaviour. We hope to develop children's ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues and enhance their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. It is our intention that children develop respect and tolerance for others and their beliefs. We promote teaching in Religious Education that stresses open enquiry and first-hand experiences wherever possible for both staff and children. Our RE curriculum supports confidence and compassion when asking questions about the world. We value the religious background of all members of the school community and hope that this will encourage individuals to share their own experiences with others freely. All religions and their communities are treated with respect and sensitivity, and we value the links, which are, and can be made between home, school, and a faith community. We acknowledge that each religion studied can contribute to the education of all our pupils. We are aware that our location does not facilitate easy access to a diverse range of faiths and beliefs, therefore we use videoclips, high quality texts and where possible, visits from people of different faiths. Visits to our school library provide additional opportunities to enhance children's learning, where the children

can access books about different religions and ways of life. Alongside these areas of study, we feel it is important to embrace and reflect on a wide range of religious festivals and events which are of national significance throughout the year.

Subject Implementation:

At Biscovey Primary Academy, the following religions have been selected to study, as outlined in the Cornwall Agreed Syllabus:

- Christianity
- Judaism
- Islam
- Hinduism (KS2)
- Non-religious worldviews (KS2)
- The religious, spiritual and cultural character of Cornwall

Our RE curriculum is designed to support progression across EYFS, KS1 and KS2 and we use the NATRE scheme of learning where lessons are based around enquiry and investigation with a core question running through each term. Christianity is taught in every year group, with Christmas and Easter given new focus each year, developing the learning in a progressive way. Through discussions, children are encouraged to make links between different religious practices and the impact it has on their lives and those of others. Religious Education is taught for weekly within class alongside whole school and class assemblies. Key vocabulary is selected for each unit, is covered within every lesson with symbols and is tailored for the content taught; enabling children to know more and remember more about different religions they are exposed to them. This approach helps children to acquire, retain and confidently apply subject-specific language, deepening their understanding of the diverse religions and worldviews they encounter.

Learning is enhanced by visits from religious leaders, helping children to develop meaningful links with local faith communities and gain first-hand experience of religious celebrations and practices within the local area. We also visit local churches and places of worship as part of our experience. Often, our focus is on discussion and critical thinking. The use of carefully planned activities, including class discussions and opportunities for reflection, enables all children, including those with SEND, to actively engage in enquiry and deepen their understanding. It is our expectation that all children are heard and supported to explore new ideas and achieve their best.

Subject Impact:

At Biscovey Primary Academy, children enjoy learning about other religions and why people may or may not choose to follow a religion. Through their learning, the children make links between their own lives and those of others in their community and in the wider world. Religious Education is fundamental in engendering knowledge and understanding which can lead to tolerance, compassion and respect for others and their beliefs. It does not teach children to passively accept, but encourages evaluation and critical thinking, equipping them to consider belief positions they encounter. Through Religious Education our children are developing an understanding of, and consideration for, other people's cultures and ways of life, which they are then able to communicate to the wider community. Religious Education offers our children the means to understand how other people choose to live and to understand why they choose to live in that way.

Contextual Example: In a Christianity lesson, teachers will use language such as "Some Christians believe…" to ensure pupils recognise the diversity of belief and avoid making assumptions about any faith group. Discussion and reflection are integral to learning, enabling children to consider how beliefs influence values, actions and life choices. Pupils are encouraged to make thoughtful connections to their own experiences and beliefs, fostering respect, understanding and a deeper appreciation of different religions and worldviews.