



Every Child, Every Day, Every Future

RE POLICY

Introduction

Hook Infant School is made up of staff and pupils who originate from many nationalities, cultures and faith groups. As a school we aim to celebrate this diversity and offer a welcoming and inclusive environment for all our pupils, including new arrivals and non-native English speakers. We believe that Religious Education provides an opportunity to celebrate and foster awareness of these differences within our school and the wider world. It is a subject that celebrates diversity and challenges stereotypes

Syllabus

RE at Hook Infant School is taught in accordance with the aims of Living Difference IV. This Syllabus, published in November 2021, will be fully implemented by September 2022 as we are currently moving over from Living Difference III. Living Difference IV is the Agreed Syllabus for Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton.

Aims

- The main aim and purpose of RE at Hook Infant School is to introduce children to what a religious way of existing in the world may look like and what it may have to offer our children in their lives.
- Through our RE teaching we aim to provide opportunities for spiritual growth. The skills of communication, reflection, empathy, comprehension, inquiry and evaluation are promoted at all times.
- We aim to help children develop a reflective approach to life by fostering their curiosity, imagination, insight and intuition, understanding and tolerance of difference.
- We aim to enrich this process through exploring and experiencing living faiths. We strive to provide opportunities to explore and respond to aspects of human experience which allow the children to make sense of the world around them.
- We aim to provide a curriculum which helps pupils to develop a positive attitude towards other people, respecting their right to hold different beliefs from their own, and works towards allowing them to live in a society of many religions and beliefs harmoniously. Attitudes of curiosity, respect, wonder, empathy and appreciation are fostered and promoted wherever possible.

We strive to achieve these aims through providing a range of structured activities, role play, discussions and time for investigation in class, as a year group and in collective worship time. through sharing stories, prayers and poems and quiet reflection. We provide opportunities to listen to visitors and people from the local religious community including vicars and priests. This is Covid 19 permitting as we have had limitations on our visitors to keep the school as safe as possible since 2019.

We hugely value our children's prayers and prayer art created at home and enjoy sharing these from our school prayer box in collective worship or in class. Hook Infants School's 'Celebration Book' for school families to write and share their experiences of their life religious experiences allows the children to gain further insight into how our school community live life. Furthermore, we believe it grows the children's skills of enquiry, comprehension, interpretation and understanding also.

Legal Requirements

In accordance with the law we provide religious education for all pupils registered at the school, unless they are withdrawn at the wish of their parents. The staff at Hook Infant School have the legal right to withdraw from the teaching of religious education. RE teaching accounts for 36 hours of learning per academic year in EYFS and KS1.

The Scheme of Work

Hook Infant Schools scheme of work for Religious Education covers the requirements of the Agreed Syllabus, Living Difference III / VI. RE is usually taught in blocked half-termly units allowing the children to immerse themselves in the



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key concepts being explored. Children at Hook Infant School will study both Abrahamic and Dharmic religions each year.

In EYFS the children study themes and concepts based on the Christian Traditions and the Sikhi Faith and one of the *golden thread* concepts. At Key Stage 1, children further their knowledge and understanding of Christian Traditions and the Sikhi Faith. In Year 1, children will study two of the *golden thread concepts/words* and in Year 2 the other two. The four golden thread concept words are: belonging, community, special and love.

There is also a space allowed for in the curriculum for 'Pondering Time'. This is explained in Living Difference IV 'as *time for children to direct their own enquiry and investigations following their interests*' whilst being guided by the class teacher. This valuable opportunity allows children to celebrate other religions and religious experiences lived by themselves or their peers.

Teaching and Learning

At Hook Infant School we take the approach in Living Difference IV that highlights "*the approach to teaching religious education will always begin with the teacher finding interesting ways to bring the concept alive for our children*". We then follow the 'Cycle of Enquiry' where we communicate, apply, inquire, contextualise and evaluate with the children the concept we are exploring together. The purpose of teaching this way is as highlighted in Living Difference IV "*to introduce children to what a religious way of existing in the world may offer in leading one's life, individually and collectively*".

Our children learn to communicate their knowledge and understanding using specialist vocabulary. Inclusion and differentiation for children with SEN and EAL are considered and supported in our planning and teaching as they are in all areas of the curriculum. Within the teaching of RE we make the most of opportunities to help our children develop their sensitivity to relevant issues and attitudes towards themselves and others. We endeavour to draw on the varied experiences and backgrounds of our pupils and staff in order to make RE relevant and interesting to our pupils. Through RE children have the opportunity to develop many key skills and wherever possible, links are made between Religious Education and other curriculum subjects.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

Religious Education is a key opportunity for children to develop morally, spiritually, socially and culturally. In RE lessons, as well as PHSE and our Collective Worship programme, children are invited to reflect on their personal responses to issues, respect and consider other people's responses, and appreciate that, for some people, belief in a spiritual dimension and way of life is important. We encourage children to consider the answers offered by faith groups to questions of meaning and purpose and problems within society and their own experience.

Recording and Assessment

At Hook Infant School we celebrate our children's knowledge by recording and assessing in many different ways. For example, we have class scrap books that compile art work, children's quotes, photographs of learning through role play and written work. These portfolios of work along with other work gathered allow work to be marked and assessed and progress monitored.

RE is governed by the Living Difference IV Syllabus and not the National Curriculum. The end of year expectations (EYEs) in the syllabus allow the children to be assessed at various steps in the teaching cycle. A step of the cycle is chosen and assessed during each unit. Moderation is carried out by our school RE Lead.

Approved by the Full Governing Body March 2022

Date for review March 2025