

# **KINGSWAY COMMUNITY TRUST**

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (R.E.) POLICY**

**December 2015**

# Religious Education (RE) Policy

**Date: December 2015**

**Review Date: December 2020**

## **Aims and objectives**

Religious education enables children to investigate and reflect on some of the most fundamental questions asked by people. At Kingsway Community Trust we develop the children's knowledge and understanding of the six major world faiths.

This policy should be used in conjunction and with reference to section 19 of the Safeguarding Policy - Preventing radicalisation and violent extremism.

## **We enable children to:-**

- Develop a sound knowledge of the six major world religions.
- Reflect on what it means to have a faith and to develop their own spiritual knowledge and understanding.
- We help the children learn from religions as well as about religions.

## **The aims of religious education are to help children:-**

- Develop an awareness of spiritual and moral issues in life experiences.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of the six major world religions and value systems found in Britain.
- Develop an understanding of what it means to be committed to a religious tradition.
- Be able to reflect on their own experiences and to develop a personal response to the fundamental questions of life.
- Develop an understanding of religious traditions and to appreciate the cultural differences in Britain today.
- Develop investigative and research skills and to enable them to make reasoned judgements about religious issues.
- Have respect for other peoples' views and to celebrate the diversity in society.

## **The legal position of religious education**

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from taking part in RE lessons. This is to be put in writing to the Executive Headteacher. They are not required to give a reason for this decision.

In making this decision, it is important that they can withdraw their child from RE but where there are religious aspects to learning in other subjects like History or English, all other subjects are compulsory. Children are therefore to partake in those areas of learning.

At KWCT, parents cannot choose to only withdraw their child from some aspects of RE and not others. This request would relate to all RE lessons and the pupil would be given alternative work to undertake in their classroom during the lesson.

### **Teaching and learning style**

We base our teaching and learning style in RE on the key principle that good teaching in RE allows children both to learn about religious traditions and to reflect on what the religious ideas and concepts mean to them.

Our teaching enables children to extend their own sense of values and promotes their spiritual growth and development.

We encourage children to think about their own views and values in relation to the themes and topics studied in the RE curriculum. Our teaching and learning styles in RE enable children to build on their own experiences and extend their knowledge and understanding of religious traditions. We aim to invite people of different faiths including parents into school to talk to the children about special events / celebrations within their religion.

### **Trips**

Every year group, from year 1 to year 6 will visit at least one place of worship during the academic year. When they leave our school, the children will have experienced a place of worship for each of the 6 major world faiths. We visit places of worship as guests and learners NOT as worshippers.

### **Festivals**

These are marked throughout the year for all 6 major world religions and year groups perform in assemblies as part of this and parents are invited.

