Religious Education
Policy for
All Saints C of E (Aided)
Infant School

Date of Review: September 2014
Date of Next Review: September 2015
Introduction

Religious Education is unique in the school curriculum in that it is neither a core subject nor a foundation subject but the 1988 Education Act states that:

‘Religious Education has equal standing in relation to core subjects of the National Curriculum in that it is compulsory for all registered pupils.’

All Saints Infant School is a Church of England Voluntary Aided School therefore the provision of Religious Education must be in accordance with the Trust Deed of the School. The Governors, in consultation with the Headteacher, have decided, following advice from the Diocese, to adopt the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education and to supplement this with other material where appropriate.

Rationale/Aims in Religious Education

Learning and teaching activities in Religious Education contribute to the achievement of curriculum aims for all young people to become:

- **successful learners** who enjoy learning, make progress and achieve
- **confident individuals** who are able to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives
- **responsible citizens** who make a positive contribution to society.

Our school aims are particularly relevant to our work in Religious Education.

We want everyone at All Saints to:

- feel happy, secure, safe and valued at school and pre-school
- develop a growing awareness of their own inner self and spirituality, and of the power of the Christian faith to transform lives
- develop healthy relationships based on care, trust, compassion and forgiveness
- show acceptance for and understanding of others who may have different beliefs or needs
- strive for the highest standards of achievement, developing the confidence and skills to be independent, motivated and self-disciplined learners
- have a positive approach to life, contributing to the well-being of the community and building hope for the future
Skills, knowledge and understanding to be developed in Religious Education

We want our pupils to:

- Acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and the other principal religions represented in the United Kingdom, especially Judaism.
- Develop an understanding of the influence of beliefs, values and traditions on individuals, communities, societies and cultures.
- Develop positive attitudes of respect towards other people who hold views and beliefs different from their own, and towards living in a society of diverse religions.
- Develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues, with reference to the teachings of the principal religions represented in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, the region and the United Kingdom.
- Enhance their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development by:
  o developing awareness of the fundamental questions of life raised by human experiences, and of how religious teachings can relate to them;
  o responding to such questions with reference to the teachings and practices of religions and other belief systems, relating them to their own understanding and experience;
  o will include: reflecting on their own beliefs, values and experiences in the light of their study.

Teaching and learning will include:

- Investigation
- Interpretation
- Analysis and evaluation
- Synthesis
- Application
- Expression
- Empathy

Attitudes to be developed in Religious Education

We aim to encourage and develop the key attitudes including:

- Curiosity and wonder
- Commitment
- Fairness
- Respect
- Self-understanding
- Open-mindedness
- Critical mindedness
- Enquiry
Approaches to teaching Religious Education

In order to make religious education a lively, active subject we employ a variety of teaching methods through discussions, recording, active participation, outside visitors, trips, art, music, the development of thinking skills, drama, the use of artefacts, pictures, stories, and the use of periods of stillness and reflection.

Where possible we want our pupils to have opportunities to encounter local faith communities through visits to local places of worship or visits from members of local faith communities.

Religious Education at All Saints Infant School is delivered in the following way. We use as a basis for our planning the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education and resources from the Diocese. At Key Stage 1, pupils study Christianity as the principal focus and Judaism as the major focus.

Religious Education and the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

While the statutory requirement for Religious Education does not extend to children under compulsory school age, it can form a valuable part of the educational experience of children in the EYFS. It can contribute particularly to:

- Personal, Social and Emotional development;
- Communication and Language;
- Literacy;
- Understanding the World;
- Expressive Arts and Design.

The annual scheme of work includes half termly themes to be covered by the Reception class.

Assessment and monitoring of Religious Education

In line with the school policy on assessment and monitoring, the learning intentions are shared with the children and regularly throughout each unit of work tasks are set which are linked to the learning intentions. These tasks take a variety of styles, for example:

- Speaking and listening activities;
- Creative work, including art, dance and music;
- Drama;
- Writing;
- Mind mapping.

The children are encouraged to develop skills to enable them to assess their own progress in Religious Education and to understand how to improve their work. It is expected that each teacher will be responsible for the regular assessment of his or her pupils through evaluating tasks set. Assessments will be recorded using:
• The APP grid for Religious Education;
• The Early Learning Goals assessment sheet for Religious Education;
• The P Scales assessment sheet for Religious Education (where appropriate).

**Reporting to parents/carers**

On an annual basis, the school reports to parents/carers on attainment and progress in Religious Education based on teacher assessment.

The subject leader will monitor Religious Education within the school through analysis of this assessment data and other monitoring activities (e.g. work sampling, classroom observations, planning scrutiny).

**The right of withdrawal from Religious Education**

At All Saints Infant School we wish to be an inclusive community but recognise that parents and carers, of course, have the legal right to withdraw their children from Religious Education on the grounds of conscience. We would ask any parent/carer considering this to contact the Headteacher to discuss any concerns or anxieties about the policy, provision and practice of Religious Education in our school.

**Appendices**

• The annual scheme of work for each year group
• The APP grid for Religious Education;
• The Early Learning Goals assessment sheet for Religious Education;
• The P Scales assessment sheet for Religious Education.

**Jo Redfern**

**September 2014**