

GREEN LANE PRIMARY ACADEMY

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, VALUES AND INCLUSION STATEMENT

The intention of Religious Education is not to commend a particular religious view but to bring each child to a rational and sensitive understanding of what religion is and how this or her own experience relates to the religious process.

At Green Lane Primary Academy we use guidance from our local SACRE (**Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education**) and the National Curriculum Framework for Religious Education to inform our programme of study to develop informed attitudes to understanding other major world religions and aim to create a positive ethos and tolerance of all beliefs and practices. The National Curriculum Framework for Religious Education was drawn up with the support of a steering group comprising the major faith groups and belief communities in Great Britain. (See Appendix 1 for full list.)

The focus of the framework is to set out a system that places value on the ethos and morals that religious education can establish, independent of any faith, and to promote high levels of consistency in teaching and learning. It should also give teachers the freedom to find the best ways to inspire in their pupils a joy and commitment to learning that will last a lifetime.

An entitlement to religious education must be an entitlement for all pupils, regardless of their faith or belief. This framework makes clear the principles that schools should follow in the teaching of religious education, to ensure that all pupils have the chance to succeed, whatever their individual needs or the potential barriers to their learning may be.

THE VALUES OF THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious education actively promotes the values of truth, justice, respect for all and care of the environment. It places specific emphasis on:

- pupils valuing themselves and others
- the role of family and the community in religious belief and activity
- the celebration of diversity in society through understanding similarities and differences
- sustainable development of the earth.

Religious education also recognises the changing nature of society, including changes in religious practice and expression, and the influence of religion in the local, national and global community.

It is also a fact that religious intolerance has plagued our society for generations. Knowledge of the beliefs and customs of others - which should form the core of the RE Curriculum - can only help us live together in peace and mutual respect.

THE AIMS OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SHOULD HELP PUPILS TO:

- acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of all the principal religions represented in Great Britain.
- develop an understanding of the influence of beliefs, values and traditions on individuals, communities, societies and cultures.
- develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues with reference to the teaching of the principal religions represented in Great Britain.
- develop respect for other people's right to hold different beliefs.
- develop a positive attitude towards living in a society of diverse religions

PRINCIPLES IN GREEN LANE

The main principles of religious education within Green Lane Primary Academy are that:

- It makes no assumption about the teacher's, or pupil's, personal faith stance;
- It does not wish to persuade towards, or away from, a particular belief;
- It is available for all pupils regardless of their faith background;
- The teacher is an educator to help pupils to understand a range of different religious beliefs, experiences and practices.
- Stereo types of faiths are avoided – every religion is multicultural

We are committed to overcoming religious intolerance in society and believe it is completely unacceptable in our school. Knowledge of the beliefs and customs of others – which form the core of the RE Curriculum – can only help us to live together in peace and mutual respect.

INCLUSION

Religious Education

We expect that everyone who chooses to send their children to Green Lane Primary Academy can subscribe to principles and values outlined in this statement. We expect all children to enter fully into the life of the school.

Parents do have a statutory right to withdraw children from religious education lessons. Should any parent choose to exercise this right we believe this should be from all Religious Education as to do otherwise would be discriminatory and against the principles defined above.

The parents who withdraw their children from the school's provision may make arrangements for their children to receive religious education in accordance with their wishes off the school premises, provided that the responsible authority - the Governing Body - is satisfied that this does not interfere with the pupils' attendance at school, other than at the beginning or end of the school day. The school, however, is not able to provide alternative teaching for pupils withdrawn at these times.

Such withdrawal can only include discrete RE lessons and not exclusion from all activities at the time of social, cultural and religious celebrations i.e. Christmas, Eid etc. If parents require such an approach for their child we believe that Green Lane Primary School is not the correct school for their child.

Our curriculum is increasingly, in line with government policy, being delivered in a cross-curricular way. If parents have exercised their right of withdrawal from Religious Education teachers will be mindful of

this and will where possible tailor activities to ensure that both the child's entitlement to the full national curriculum and the right of withdrawal are not compromised.

Collective Worship

Collective Worship – The saying of prayers, or a time for reflection, takes place daily in Green Lane either at the end of our school assemblies or in our classrooms. Children are encouraged to listen to the messages being discussed and reflect on these within their own belief systems. To reflect the changing nature of our school times of reflection are non-denominational and based on the principles of; being a 'good' person, kindness, truthfulness, honesty and living harmoniously alongside others. We do, on occasions, include prayers from all the major religions within our Collective Worship – this sometimes takes the form of children from different faiths reading a prayer around the same theme but from their own religion.

Similarly the songs we sing in assembly often cover the same issues and are not usually hymns in the traditional sense. (Exceptions to this are Christmas and Easter.)

Parents do have a statutory right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship but once again school is not able to provide an alternative provision.

Where Collective Worship takes place within the classroom it is not practicable to withdraw children physically; however, these children will pursue alternative quiet activities for this short period, and will not be included by the teacher in what is being covered with the rest of the class.

In order to action any right to withdraw parents must complete the request letter which will be issued following a meeting with the Head Teacher.

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APPENDIX ONE

The National framework for Religious Education has been prepared by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority on behalf of the Secretary of State for Education with the support of a steering group consisting of the following faith and belief communities and professional organisations:

Agency for Jewish Education
Association for University Lecturers in Religion and Education (AULRE)
Association of Religious Education Inspectors, Advisors and Consultants (AREIAC)
Board of Deputies of British Jews
British Humanist Association
British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
Buddhist Society
Catholic Education Service
Church of England
Free Churches Association
Greek Orthodox Church
Guru Nanak School
Inter Faith Network for the United Kingdom
ISKCON Education Services
Methodist Church
Muslim Council of Britain
Muslim Educational Trust
National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (NASACRE)
National Council of Hindu Temples
National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United Kingdom
Network of Sikh Organisations
Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted)
Professional Council for Religious Education (PCfRE)
Religious Education Council of England and Wales
Russian Orthodox Church