

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY, TALBOT HEATH JUNIOR SCHOOL (KG-Y6)

Date of first adoption: *18<sup>th</sup> February 2022*

Date of next adoption: *Spring Term 2025*

Talbot Heath is a Church of England School founded on Christian principles that welcomes pupils of all faiths. Our approach is an inclusive one where all members of the community are united in the importance of compassion and consideration of others. At Talbot Heath Junior School, we appreciate the importance of Religious Education. We live in a diverse, multicultural and multi-faith society. It is therefore paramount that pupils understand the relevance of religion in an ever-changing society. As such, Religious Education embodies our motto of 'Honour before Honours'; it is broad, inclusive and provides pupils with a wide range of opportunities to explore and discuss the beliefs and values of the world's major religions and communities. It takes into account that all pupils are entitled to their own beliefs, also it fosters an appreciation of the human spirit and respect for everyone.

It places particular importance on:

- Children valuing themselves as individuals and respecting other individuals and peers with different beliefs.
  - Pupils understanding the important influence that religion has in families, communities, cultures and society at a local, national and global level.
  - Pupils having an opportunity to celebrate diversity in a multicultural society by becoming aware of differences and similarities in belief systems.
  - Encouraging pupils to develop their sense of identity and belonging and to care for the Environment.
- Religious Education recognises that we live in a fluid, organic, adaptive and changing society and that at times, those changes affect religious practice or expression.

### **Aims:**

At Talbot Heath, the rights of the child, as embodied in the UNCRC are valued and positively promoted within RE lessons. Article 14 of UNCRC specifies, 'Children have the right to think and believe what they want and to practise their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights'. Religious Education should help pupils to learn about religion by:

- acquiring and developing knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other principal religions represented in Great Britain.
- developing an understanding of the influence of beliefs, values and traditions on individuals, communities, societies and cultures.
- enquiring into, and investigating the nature of religion, its beliefs, teachings and ways of life, sources, practices and forms of expression. It includes the skills of interpretation, analysis and explanation.
- developing a positive attitude towards other people, respecting their right to hold different beliefs from their own and towards living in a society of diverse religions.
- developing the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues with reference to the teachings of the principal religions represented in the United Kingdom.
- enhancing their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development by developing awareness of the fundamental questions of life raised by human experiences, and how religious teachings can relate to them.
- responding to such questions with reference to the teachings and practices of religions and to their understanding and experience - reflecting on their own beliefs, values and experiences in the light of their study.

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### **Key Aspects of Learning in Religious Education at Talbot Heath:**

Through our assemblies and the Plan Bee RE scheme of work we follow, we deliver Religious Education and intend that Religious Education will:

- adopt an enquiry-based approach beginning with the children's own life experience before moving into learning about and from religion.
- provoke challenging questions about the meaning and purpose of life, beliefs, the self, and issues of right and wrong, commitment and belonging. encourage pupils to explore their own beliefs (religious or non-religious), in the light of what they learn, as they examine issues of religious belief and faith and how these impact on personal, institutional and social ethics and to express their responses.
- enable pupils to build their sense of identity and belonging, which helps them flourish within their communities and as citizens in a diverse society.
- teach pupils to develop respect for others, including people with different faiths and beliefs, and helps to challenge prejudice.
- prompt pupils to consider their responsibilities to themselves and to others, and to explore how they might contribute to their communities and to wider society. It encourages empathy, generosity and compassion.
- develop a sense of awe, wonder and mystery.
- nurture children's own spiritual development.

RE lessons are once a week and follow an order of topics as laid out in the schemes of work.

### **Assessment and Monitoring**

We expect all pupils to achieve as well in Religious Education as they do in other subjects across the curriculum. Teachers plan lessons taking account of all pupils' needs and differentiate accordingly. Pupil outcomes are based on teacher judgements made across each topic objectives. Parents receive a written report for RE at the end of the academic year which reflects levels of attainment and attitude.

### **Right of withdrawal**

At Talbot Heath, we believe that RE is central to the life and identity of our school. However, we recognise that parents have the right to withdraw their child from Religious Education, located in Section 71 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. To exercise this right, parents, guardians or carers are asked to write to the Head Teacher directly informing their desire to exercise the right to withdrawal.