

Grand Avenue Primary and Nursery School

Policy for Exploring Cultures

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1: Aims

Our aims for Exploring Cultures at Grand Avenue are to help our pupils to:

- develop spiritually and culturally
- acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and the other principal religions
- develop an understanding of the influences of belief, values and traditions on individuals, communities, societies and cultures;
- develop a positive attitude towards other people, respecting their right to hold different beliefs from their own.

2: Responsibilities

The class teacher will:

- follow the programmes of study as prescribed in The Kingston Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education.
- Plan Exploring Cultures (EC) lessons enabling children to learn through religion and about religion
- Assess knowledge and understanding of EC for all pupils at regular intervals using a variety of tasks.
- Encourage children's spiritual development
- Ensure children show clear progression and development of their knowledge and understanding of the subject as they move through the school;

The RE co-ordinator will:

- Support the class teachers in their planning/teaching
- Lead staff meetings on the development of EC
- Attend the relevant courses and disseminate information.
- Monitor the use of the designated programmes of study through lesson observations and book looks
- Manage, organise, update and order appropriate resources.
- Regularly evaluate the use and impact of resources available
- Liaise with staff (including PPA staff), organising visits and visitors to support the teaching of EC
- Monitor the recording of Acts of Worship
- Ensure a calendar of faiths is updated annually and referred to in the planning of assemblies
- Ensure subject has cross curricular links where possible and relevant

The Governing Body will:

- Evaluate the success of the policy through visits to school
- Review and update EC policy as appropriate
- Support the implementation of the policy.
- Attend relevant training
- Ensure funding is available to support the teaching of EC

3: Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation

Long term planning - see The Kingston Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education and school curriculum map. Teachers also using the EC skills ladder for reference.

Medium term planning - a half-termly programme of lessons is completed. These are recorded on a school proforma and indicate any cross curricular links.

Short term planning – lesson plans are created for each individual lesson indicating groups, support, resources, differentiation and assessment for learning.

4: Assessment

Records are made at the end of each year showing children's attainment in Exploring Cultures. Children are recorded as 'working towards ARE', 'meeting ARE' or 'exceeding ARE'. These records are kept on a central system and passed on to the receiving teacher each year.

The criteria used to make these judgements are based on the Programme of study taught in each year group.

5: Resources

A range of resources and artefacts for Exploring Cultures are available to staff. A topic box for each religion is kept in the resources cupboard. Each box includes artefacts, books, fact sheets, teacher guides and posters.

The library also has a number of books available to borrow to support the teaching of each topic.

Extra resources are added on an annual basis after consultation with all class teachers and PPA staff.

6: Equal Opportunities

At Grand Avenue we ensure that every child (regardless of physical, sensory, intellectual, emotional or behavioural difficulties, gender, social and cultural backgrounds, religion or ethnic origin) has access to a range of religious based experiences which:

- are developmentally appropriate.
- are as a result of structured and purposeful activities.
- cover relevant areas of religious education learning.
- aim towards common high standards for all.

7: Parental and Community Involvement

Visits and visitors serve to enrich the programmes of study and these are actively encouraged to support the experiences of EC for our children. Regular visits to places of worship are organised to support learning within a year group.

Grand Avenue has strong links with our borough Christian schools' worker and the local minister. Both parties are often invited to lead assemblies as well as work within classrooms.

8: Right of withdrawal

Parents are made aware of their right to withdraw their children from acts of worship or EC lessons. This is clearly set out in the school prospectus. Any children who are withdrawn are properly supervised.

Teachers are also able to withdraw from collective worship on grounds of conscience.

We endeavour for all aspects of EC in our school will be as inclusive as possible. We regard collective worship as a time of celebration which reflects our school aims and values.

Standards in Literacy

Curriculum targets for Literacy apply to all subject areas.

To ensure high standards in all written work and promote the aims of the school in all subject areas by -

- highlighting the importance of higher order writing skills
- providing opportunities to develop speaking and listening skills
- ensuring the correct use of grammar is a high priority in all written work
- developing positive cross curricular links between Literacy and other subject areas