

Art 14: All pupils in Sperrinview have the right to think and believe what they want and also to practice their religion as long as they are not stopping others from enjoying their rights. Staff must respect the rights of parents to give their children information about this right. (RRS Team 2015)

Art 23: All pupils in Sperrinview have the right to lead a full and decent life with dignity and independence and to play an active part in the community (RRS team 2015)

Art 28: Every pupil in Sperrinview has the right to an education which will be differentiated to meet their individual needs (RRS team 2015)

Sperrinview Special School Policy for Religious Education

Rationale

At Sperrinview the RE programme of study contributes to the total development of pupils, socially, morally and spiritually. It should reflect the overall aims, values and ethos of the school and encourage tolerance, mutual respect and an awareness of God.

Aims

- To promote an understanding of the idea of God and His love for the individual.
- To promote the idea of the Bible as a special book which contains the word of God.
- To encourage pupils to form responsible values and positive attitudes based on Christian teaching.
- To encourage an awareness and appreciation of religious language, festivals, worship, ceremonies and symbols and in particular those relating to the Christian Church.
- To develop an awareness of personal needs and to be sensitive to the needs of others to include
- happiness
- loneliness

- sickness
- suffering
- To develop an awareness of personal and social issues including family life, relationships, work, leisure and moral issues from a Christian perspective.

Organisation

Although the school has a Christian ethos, it is the right of any parent to have their son/daughter withdrawn from the RE programme and/or Assemblies. Should such a request be made arrangements for worship/provision will be made to facilitate the pupil[s] and accommodate the wishes of the parent[s].

The RE programme of study is delivered in a variety of ways.

Class Assembly

Monday to Thursday inclusive, each class conducts its own Assembly which springs from or leads to classroom work.

General Assembly

General Assemblies take place in the Main Hall one morning a week, usually on Friday. These are introduced by the Principal or Vice-Principal and led on a rota basis by each of the six classes based on a previously agreed format and theme [see appendix 1 and 2].

Special Assemblies

At certain times throughout the year special Assemblies are held eg. Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Summer. On these occasions pupils from several classes may participate. Local clergy are also invited to contribute.

Preparation for Religious Ceremonies

In consultation with clergy and parents, arrangements are made to assist with preparation for First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

In keeping with the school ethos, thanks are offered at mealtimes and Christian values and attitudes permeate the school day.

Roles

The co-ordinator for Religious Education is Mrs Shaunagh Duffin. The Principal has overall responsibility for the implementation of the policy.

External Support

Parents

Local Clergy

RE Adviser - EA Southern Region

Staff Development

- School based in-service with EA Southern Region RE Adviser as required.
- External courses where appropriate to the needs of the school.

Resources

- A bank of resource material is available in the curriculum cupboard in the staffroom to assist in delivering the programme of study.
- Visiting speakers including local clergy.
- Local Churches and those attended by pupils.
- RE Adviser EA Southern Region.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Religious Education policy will be monitored and evaluated on an ongoing basis through consultation with pupils, staff and parents.

Review

A sub-committee of the Board of *Governors* will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of this policy as part of a timetabled, on-going process.

Signed: _____ Date: _____