Religious and Moral Education

Parents' Information Primary 2

"<u>Principles and practice</u>

Scotland is a diverse nation whose people hold a wide range of beliefs. Religious and moral education enables children and young people to explore the world's major religions and to develop their own beliefs and values."

Education Scotland, 2015

Religious and Moral Education

Religious Education has a statutory position in Scottish education. At Ratho Primary School we teach Religious and Moral Education (RME) as one of eight curriculum areas taught within Curriculum for Excellence framework. We reviewed our delivery of the RME programme during 2013 and have a programme of study in place for each class. The three broad subject areas covered are **Christianity, Other World Religions and Beliefs & Values**. We are keen to develop a shared understanding of this programme between home and school.

The Curriculum for Excellence includes the following Experiences and Outcomes for RME:

Learning through Religious and Moral Education enables pupils to:

- recognise religion as an important expression of human experience
- learn about and from the beliefs, values, practices and traditions of Christianity and the world religions selected for study, other traditions and viewpoints independent of religious belief
- explore and develop knowledge and understanding of religions, recognising the place of Christianity in the Scottish context
- investigate and understand the responses which religious and non-religious views can offer to questions about the nature and meaning of life
- recognise and understand religious diversity and the importance of religion in society
- develop respect for others and an understanding of beliefs and practices which are different from my own
- explore and establish values such as wisdom, justice, compassion and integrity and engage in the development of and reflection upon my own moral values
- develop my beliefs, attitudes, values and practices through reflection, discovery and critical evaluation
- develop the skills of reflection, discernment, critical thinking and deciding how to act when making moral decisions
- make a positive difference to the world by putting my beliefs and values into action
- establish a firm foundation for lifelong learning, further learning and adult life.

Curriculum for Excellence Key Themes:

Early Level (Nursery-P1)		
Christianity	**Other World Religions**	**Beliefs and Values**
Stories Celebration and festivals Caring and sharing	Stories Sharing and caring Celebrations	Caring and sharing Respect
First Level (P2-P4)		
Christianity	**Other World Religions**	**Beliefs and Values**
Bible Stories Key features Annual celebrations Places and artefacts Key values Types of Christianity Personal beliefs	Key beliefs Key features Places and artefacts Personal beliefs Key values Annual celebrations Ritual	Caring and sharing Values Personal beliefs Respect
Second Level (P5-P7)		
Christianity	**Other World Religions**	**Beliefs and Values**
Beliefs Bible stories Celebrations and festivals Key values Key figures and beliefs Worship and artefacts Morality Scottish Traditions	Beliefs Stories Annual celebrations Key figures Worship and artefacts Sharing and caring Morality Traditions	Values Diversity Personal beliefs Respect

Working in Partnership with local Religious Representatives

In order to compliment the planned Religious and Moral Education teaching programme we look towards engaging with local representatives of all world religions and cultures where possible and relevant.

Any representative that is invited to visit the school liaises closely with the class teacher in preparation for working with the classes and the intended learning is shared.

As a representative of the Christian Religion, Mr Wells (Church of Scotland) visits each class once a term in liaison with the class teachers. Additional representatives are contacted where relevant such as Rabbi Pinny Weinmann (Judaism) and Ms Mansur (Islam).

Religious Observation

In accordance with the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 and the advice contained in the Scottish Government's letter of February 2011 it is the policy of the authority and the school to hold acts of religious observance. The school will follow the City of Edinburgh Council policy of a minimum of six religious observance opportunities per year for each pupil.

The aims of religious observance are defined as:

"To promote the spiritual development of all members of the school community;
To express and celebrate the shared values of the school community"

Religious Observance Review Group Report

Religious Observance occasions are based on awareness, spirituality and time for reflection.

Primary 2

Key Learning:

I can describe some values of Christianity
I can discuss some beliefs that Christians have about Jesus and God
I can describe some key features of Christian stories
I am familiar with some simple stories from the Bible which link to the birth of Jesus,
I am aware that Christians believe in one God
I can show a simple understanding of Christian worship and prayer customs
I can recognise that a church is a special place for Christians
I am aware through story and practices that Christians value children and the family
I am familiar with some of the well-known stories Jewish children are told about Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph and David
I know that for Jews, home is a special place where they can share their lives with their family and with God
I can understand that the mezuzah reminds Jews of God's goodness and presence in their home
I know that the holy book of Islam is the Qu'ran
I know that Muslims believe in one God and that the Arabic word for God is Allah
I am aware that Muslims value children and the elderly and care for the poor
I can take responsibility for my own environment i.e. playground
I can show care for others
I am aware of people who help us in the school and the wider environment
I am developing my sense of personal identity

P2 Topics		
Christianity	**Other World Religions**	**Beliefs and Values**
The World of the Classroom	World of the Classroom	The Class Charter
Bible Stories	Judaism – Sukkot, Hanukkah	
Christmas	Islam – Eid	
Easter	Stories	

Useful Websites:

http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/parentzone/learninginscotland/curriculumareas/religiousandmoraleducation/index.asp

http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/learningteachingandassessment/curriculumareas/rme/nondenominational/principlesandpractice/index.asp