

Religious Education Policy **Seamer and Irton CP School**

The Aim of RE

At Seamer and Irton CP School, Religious Education is concerned to help pupils develop an open, sensitive and reflective approach to understanding humankind's varied religious practices, values, beliefs and lifestyles, relating these to their own experiences and to questions of everyday life.

(The North Yorkshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education)

We help the children learn *from* religions as well as *about* religions.

The legal position of religious education

Our school curriculum for religious education meets the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act (ERA). The ERA stipulates that religious education is compulsory for all children, including those in the reception class who are less than five years old. The ERA allows parents to withdraw their child from religious education classes if they so wish, although this should only be done once the parents have given written notice to the school governors. The ERA also allows teachers to refuse to teach religious education, but only after they have given due notice of their intention to the school governors. The religious education curriculum forms an important part of our school's spiritual, moral and social teaching. It also promotes education for citizenship. Our school RE curriculum is based on the North Yorkshire LEA's Agreed Syllabus and it meets all the requirements set out in that document. The ERA states that the RE syllabus should reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, and that it should, at the same time, take account of the teachings and practices of other major religions.

The complete policy statement for RE is available from our RE subject leader, Mrs. F. Donald.