

Dharma Scheme of Work Policy

2012 - 2013

'The International Kadampa Schools will be the gateway through which children of the modern world can enter the great treasury of wisdom and compassion that is known as Kadam Dharma. I would like to encourage every child to enter this treasury so that they will find a meaningful and happy life'.

Geshe Kelsang Gyatso.

The Dharma Scheme of Work at the Kadampa Primary School Derbyshire is offered as an optional subject and is entirely dependent on parent and pupil choice. There is one KS2 class weekly and one KS1/FS class weekly. Its aims are to provide pupils with the opportunity to begin the process of fulfilling their full spiritual potential. The essential aspects of how to lead a happier and more meaningful way of life will be taught in a practical ways to ensure the pupils have the necessary skills to deal with all the challenges of life.

We see the Dharma Scheme of Work as an integral part of the education experience as a whole.

Aims for the children

- To understand the value of Dharma practice.
- To develop such qualities as love, compassion, patience, faith, concentration and wisdom.
- To reduce negative states of mind, e.g. anger, attachment, jealousy and selfishness.
- To know how to, and to gain experience, of putting Dharma into practice in their daily lives.

Aims for the staff

- To exemplify Dharma practice in their own daily life and behaviour in the delivery of lessons.
- To deliver an enjoyable and structured Dharma programme, that can be applied to every other curriculum subject, and indeed every aspect of life.
- To allow for a planned progression through the Dharma Scheme of Work based on focused practical tasks and integrating their knowledge and good intentions into their daily life both in and out of school, as well as into other school subjects.
- To ensure that all children regardless of age, race, ability or gender have equality of opportunity in all areas within the Dharma Scheme of Work.
- To plan for differentiation, where appropriate.
- To draw upon knowledge, skills and attitudes from other curriculum areas.

Objectives for the children

Children should aspire to be able to:

- Enjoy the Dharma Scheme of Work.
- Develop their good qualities by putting Dharma into practice in their lives.
- Reduce their negative qualities by putting Dharma into practice in their lives.
- Benefit others by putting Dharma into practice in their lives.
- Wish to continue practising Dharma throughout their life to benefit both themselves and others.

Assessment and Reporting

Assessments will be made at the end of each half term of teaching the Dharma Scheme of Work. Assessment is conducted with an emphasis on the pupil using it as a way to judge their own progress, rather than as a teacher assessment. However, the assessments are used to inform teachers' planning and for the annual report for parents. These assessments are also used as part of monitoring of standards across the school.

Implementation

The Dharma Scheme of Work is an optional subject. It will enhance and improve every aspect of the whole

curriculum and will always be delivered in a cross-curricular way. Each half term a specific aspect of Kadampa Buddhism will be taught, emphasising the development of a particular virtuous state of mind and opposing a particular negative state; for example 'Giving' in the autumn term. This process will culminate in a practical application of their knowledge.

Role of the Dharma Scheme of Work Co-ordinator

- To offer help and advice, wherever possible
- To monitor planning and lessons in the Dharma Scheme of Work, as well as progress
- To provide practical help
- To order resources
- To ensure that the policy and schemes of work are regularly reviewed

Health and safety

The Dharma Scheme of Work follows the guidelines of the school Health and Safety Policy. A risk assessment must be undertaken by teachers when doing any off-site activity.

ICT

ICT will be used whenever beneficial in the Dharma Scheme of Work.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed every year in line with the school's policy review programme.

In addition to this:

- Staff will attend the General Programme/Foundation Programme classes at Tara Kadampa Meditation Centre and the New Kadampa Tradition International Spring and Summer Festivals for their continuing spiritual and professional development.
- Staff will discuss ongoing developments and our commitment to refining and improving the quality of our Dharma teaching.
- All staff are invited to participate in the Teaching Skills sessions which are part of the Teacher Training Programme at Tara Kadampa Meditation Centre.
- This policy will also be updated when there are any major changes in practice or view within the New Kadampa Tradition.

To be reviewed: November 2013