



Religious Education Policy

Category: Non-Statutory	Approved by: Teaching Learning & Care Committee
Approved: July 2024	Next Approval due: July 2027
Initial Review by: Head Teacher	Formal Review by: Teaching Learning & Care Committee
Linked Policies: Curriculum, Teaching & Learning policies.	

When monitoring and reviewing we ensure compliance with the school's Equality Policy

Our Christian vision:

Built on the rock of Christian faith, we work as a community to create an environment which enables all to flourish. Jesus welcomed everyone and we embrace diversity, celebrating our different gifts and successes. Like St Peter, we are motivated by our values, learn from our mistakes and strive for the best outcome for all.

Introduction

In Woolhampton CE Primary School, RE plays an important role in supporting the Christian vision of the school. RE reflects the values that are held and promotes understanding of people of all faiths and none. RE has the same high status as any other subject and contributes to the overall development of our pupils from all backgrounds and traditions.

The Legal Position

Every maintained school in England must provide a basic curriculum (RE, Relationships and Sex Education and the National Curriculum). This includes provision for RE for all registered pupils at the school (including those in the sixth form), except for those withdrawn by their parents (or withdrawing themselves if they are aged 18 or over) in accordance with Schedule 19 to the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. The school, in accordance with its Trust Deed, provides religious education for all pupils registered at the school. Following advice from the Oxford Diocesan Board of Education, the Governors decided that religious education in our school should be based upon the Locally Agreed Syllabus (Discovery RE) while also reflecting the requirements of the Statement of Entitlement for Religious Education published by the Education Office of the Church of England in February 2019. The statutory section 48 (SIAMS) inspection will evaluate RE and the way that it contributes to the Christian vision of the school.

Religious education has the same status and importance as any other subject and, as such, the same high standards are applied to this as to other subjects.

Purpose and Aims of RE

The purpose of RE is to teach children about the religious and non-religious world-views that they will encounter in modern Britain and enable them to engage in meaningful and considered dialogue with those of all faiths and none. This is religious literacy.

Therefore, the aims of RE in our school are:

- To enable pupils to know about and understand Christianity as a diverse global living faith through the exploration of core beliefs using an approach that critically engages with biblical text.
- To recognize the concept of religion and its continuing influence on British culture and heritage and the lives of people and societies in different times, cultures and places.
- To enable pupils to gain knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews appreciating diversity, continuity and change within the religions and worldviews being studied. To enable pupils to explore and express their own religious, spiritual and philosophical ways of living believing and thinking.
- To contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils and their own spiritual and philosophical convictions
- To engage with challenging questions of meaning and purpose raised by human existence and experience
- To develop a positive attitude towards other people, respecting their right to hold different beliefs from their own and towards living in a society of diverse religions

Curriculum and Time Allocation

The RE curriculum at Woolhampton CE Primary School, has been approved by the governors. Christianity is taught in every year group, with key concepts revisited on a spiral curriculum. Approximately 50% of the time is devoted to Christianity. Other religions are covered according to the syllabus e.g. Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism.

The total time for RE is between 5% and 10%, and it is taught in dedicated lessons/blocks/cross-curricular settings as appropriate. The time dedicated to RE is separate to the time given to Collective Worship. In KS1 this will amount to approximately 36 hours per year; in KS2 this rises to 45 hours per year. In addition, we ensure that we give time to respond and reflect on incidental local and world events that arise.

Teaching, Learning and Assessment

RE is taught using an enquiry based approach, that is challenging and robust. Learning will be organised to encourage the development of attitudes such as self-awareness, respect for all, open-mindedness, appreciation and wonder, as well as providing opportunities to engage with the appropriate strands of the British Values agenda. All faiths will be treated respectfully, and

opportunities will be made to engage in age-appropriate, meaningful discussion. Where possible pupils will encounter believers and visit places of worship.

A variety of resources, styles, and techniques will be used as appropriate to enable all children to make progress in RE regardless of their starting points, ability or background. Adjustments are made to ensure effective inclusion and equal access to learning.

Assessment procedures will be robust and in line with the assessment procedures and feedback policy of the school. Students will engage in a variety of activities which will also enable teachers to assess what they have learnt. Records kept will include information about pupils' experiences and judgements about their attainment and progress, as well as being used to inform planning.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The RE subject leader and SLT will monitor teaching and learning in RE in accordance with school policy. Monitoring will include observations of teaching, scrutiny of work and planning and pupil voice as appropriate to assess the quality of teaching and learning. The Headteacher and Governors will ensure that adequate monitoring takes place and that the impact of such activity is assessed.

Resources

The RE subject leader will ensure that RE resources are kept up-to-date and that staff are informed when new resources are purchased or made available electronically. Resources will include source materials (e.g. Bibles, visitors, artefacts) where appropriate and be treated with respect by all staff.

The Right of Withdrawal

Pupils may be withdrawn from RE or part of RE by a parent or guardian; teachers can exercise their right to withdraw from teaching the subject. However, we hope that all parents and teachers will feel comfortable with the type of religious education being taught at this school. Parents who wish to withdraw their children must provide written notification to this effect and provide suitable activities for their children while the school keeps them safe.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed every three years in line with the school's procedure.