



Religious Education

Reviewed:
September 2023



It is our intent for the Religious Education element of our school curriculum to engage, inspire, challenge and encourage pupils, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to answer challenging questions, explore different religious beliefs, values and traditions and develop a more rigorous understanding of the numerous religious traditions, beliefs and practices that are followed in our multi-cultural society. We want them to know how religious education enables them to combat prejudice, preparing them for adult life, employment and life-long learning.

Aims and Objectives:

- To learn about and learn from the beliefs, practices and celebrations of different religions.
- Recognise similarities and differences within different faiths.
- Develop an informed appreciation of the different religions in order that they can explore and reflect with openness, interest and respectful curiosity.
- Value religious and cultural diversity in order to enhance their social and cultural development.
- Create meaning from their knowledge and understanding of different religions in order to enhance their spiritual and moral development.
- Develop an awareness of the richness of religions and their contribution to society and cultures in order that they may form increasingly mature opinions about the world in which they live.
- Develop a sensitive understanding of the significance of religious commitment and practice in the lives of some people in order that they may develop respect for people whose beliefs may be different from their own.

Teaching and Planning:

The Teaching of RE is taught weekly, as it is in other subject areas. We use a range of teaching and learning styles, including activities such as discussion, role-play, religious stories, games, circle-time, problem-solving activities, use of artefacts and outdoor learning. At Ryhill School, children are informed about a variety of religious festivals that take place throughout the year to demonstrate how people with different religious beliefs live and worship alongside each other. We strive to create opportunities for pupils to be involved in first-hand experiences or real-life experiences e.g. we sensitively hold mock baptisms and wedding ceremonies.

RE in EYFS:

The experiences we provide in the EYFS provide the building blocks for later development and in the EYFS curriculum learning takes place through play-based opportunities and child-centred approaches.

RE is a compulsory part of the basic curriculum for all Reception age children.

The Wakefield Agreed Syllabus for RE sets out experiences and opportunities and appropriate topics for children in the Foundation Stage and we use this as a basis for our planning in Reception. RE sits firmly within the areas of Personal, Social and Emotional Development and Understanding of the World.

We ensure that our children encounter religions and worldviews through special people, times, places and objects and by visiting places of worship. Children will be introduced to subject specific words and use all their senses to explore beliefs, practices and forms of expression. They will use their imagination and curiosity to develop their appreciation of and wonder of the world in which they live.

Teaching RE within the curriculum:

“RE is a necessary part of a ‘broad and balanced curriculum.’”

(Wakefield Agreed Syllabus, 2023)

We have developed a bespoke RE curriculum, which meets the current needs of children at Ryhill. Through whole class teaching, children will learn about and from Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Judaism and non-religious views, through three key strands: BELIEVING, EXPRESSING and LIVING.

BELIEVING- Religious beliefs, teachings, sources, questions about meaning, purpose and truth.
EXPRESSING- Religious and spiritual forms of expression, questions about identity and diversity of God/Prayer/Festivals.

LIVING- Religious practices and ways of living, questions about values and commitments. In developing this curriculum, we have utilised components of published RE materials including the AGREED SYLLABUS 2023-2028, RE TODAY and NATRE resources to create the RE scheme of work, which also identifies links to British Values, SMSC and the school's eight essential skills.

Time Allocation:

RE is a core subject of the curriculum for all pupils. In order to deliver the aims and expected standards of the syllabus effectively, 36 hours of RE will be provided for Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 and 45 hours of RE for Key Stage 2. RE units will be taught in blocks.

Legal Requirement:

RE must be provided for all registered pupils in state funded schools in England, unless withdrawn by their parents. This requirement does not apply for children below compulsory school age. A locally agreed syllabus is a statutory syllabus for RE recommended by an Agreed Syllabus conference for adoption by a local authority. Religious Education is compulsory in faith and non-faith academies, as set out in their funding agreements and we will follow the Agreed Syllabus for Wakefield 2023-2028.

Right of withdrawal:

This was first granted when RE was actually religious instruction and carried with it connotations of induction into the Christian faith. RE is very different now- open, broad, exploring a range of religious and non-religious world views. However, in the UK, parents still have the right to withdraw their children from RE on the grounds that they wish to provide their own religious education. (School Standards and Framework Act 1998 S71 (3)). This will be the parents' responsibility. However, it is our school's aim to ensure that the aims and values of RE are understood before honouring this right.

Equal Opportunities:

RE follows the schools Equality Policy.

SEND Provision:

Reasonable adjustments in Religious Education: As a curriculum leader in RE, I recognise the importance to ensure that children with identified Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities have access to an ambitious Religious Education curriculum. Within the curriculum area of RE, SEND children will be provided with reasonable adjustments through their tasks and level of challenge provided. Advice can be sought from the school's SENDCO where applicable.

Responsibilities:

The RE Co-ordinator is responsible for:

- Monitoring the teaching and learning of RE and to ensure that children know more, understand more and remember more about each religion taught.
- Overseeing and implementing the policy.
- Writing an annual action plan for The School Improvement Plan and evaluating progress throughout the year.
- Attending INSET and providing staff with appropriate feedback.

- Attending regular courses to keep knowledge up to date and feedback to staff upon return.

Assessment:

Teachers will assess children's RE work in a variety of ways to ensure they gain a full understanding of what each child has learnt, and what is needed to progress their understanding. We collect evidence from each unit in our subject specific books. At the end of each unit of work, teachers will complete an assessment grid to show where the children are working at in relation to the key question -emerging, expected or exceeding and make notes during the unit being taught to aid the judgements being made. Teachers will then use this information to make an overall judgement at the end of the year.

Equipment and Resources:

There is a wide range of resources available to the school which will be maintained and monitored by the RE Co-ordinator. We have numerous artefacts and symbols from religions and various celebrations. The resources are a collective responsibility for the whole school and pupils are encouraged to treat resources carefully and with respect.

Reviewed by: M Box

Date: 04.09.23