



Religious Education Policy

Date of issue: November 2017

Review date: Spring 2020

Introduction

Religious Education (RE) is not a National Curriculum subject, but must be provided for all registered pupils in state-funded schools in England including those in the sixth form, unless withdrawn by their parents. It is a necessary part of a broad and balanced curriculum.

As RE is not nationally determined a locally agreed syllabus of RE is prepared by a local Standard Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) and adopted by a local authority. It is this Hertfordshire Agreed Syllabus of Religious Education 2017-2022 which we use as the basis of our planning and delivering of RE at Cunningham Hill Infant School.

Families who send their children to Cunningham Hill Infant School are from a range of faith backgrounds, including Christians, Muslims, Hindus, and some with non-religious views (see Table 1). Our school is committed to valuing the opinions, beliefs and practices of all and to showing sensitivity to minority groups.

Cohort	Christian	Muslim	Hindu	Jewish	Buddhist	Sikh	Other	Non-religious world views
2013-14	39%	29%	3%	1%	0.5%	0%	0%	28%
2014-15	34.2%	30.3%	2.8%	1.1%	0%	0%	0%	31.4%
2015-16	34%	29%	4%	0.5%	0.5%	0%	0.5%	31%
2016-17	31%	31.5%	5%	0.5%	0.5%	0%	0.5%	31%
2017-18	32.6%	28.6%	5%	0.5%	0.5%	0%	0.5%	32%

Table 1 ~ Percentage of religious representation at Cunningham Hill Infant School over the last five years.

Purpose of Study and Aims

At Cunningham Hill Infant School we believe that RE both supports and strengthens what we do in every aspect of school life. Our caring ethos and the value which we place on the development of the whole child: spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually, is reflected in the RE curriculum.

RE provokes challenging questions about the ultimate meaning and purpose of life, beliefs about God, the self and the nature of reality, issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human. It challenges pupils to reflect on, consider, analyse, interpret and evaluate issues of truth, belief, faith and ethics and to communicate their responses.

Purpose of Study: At Cunningham Hill Infant School we aim to achieve high quality RE for all pupils. RE teaching provides pupils with a systematic knowledge and understanding about Christianity, principal religions and worldviews which give life values. It also explains that some people do not have a religion. RE aims to enable pupils to become religiously and theologically literate so they can engage in life in an increasingly diverse society. It is not about telling pupils what religious views they should have but rather assists them in gaining shared human understanding, developing personal identity and searching for meaning in the context of evaluating different viewpoints.

Aims: The curriculum for Religious Education aims to ensure that all pupils develop knowledge and understanding of **sources of wisdom and their impact** whilst exploring **personal and critical responses**.

Sources of wisdom and their impact. All pupils should:

- Know, understand and explore the significance and impact of sacred texts, other sources of wisdom and ways of expressing meaning.
- Express ideas and insights about the nature of beliefs, values and practices and their impact upon the identity of individuals and communities.
- Recognise and explore the diversity which exists within and between religious traditions.

Personal and critical responses. All pupils should:

- Express with increased discernment their personal reflections, critical responses and connections to faith and belief enquiring into philosophical, moral and ethical issues.
- Engage with the questions and answers offered by religions and worldviews concerning ultimate questions and human responsibility.
- Develop the skills required to engage with others in dialogue and to cooperate in society with respect and compassion.

Content and Approach

From Reception to Year 2 pupils must follow a coherent and systematic study of the principal religion of Christianity and be introduced to a minimum of other two religions.

EYFS	Children will encounter Christianity and religions and beliefs represented in the class, school or local community. Religious Education will support a growing sense of the child's awareness of self, their own community and their place within this.
Years 1 and 2	A minimum of two religions are studied. Christianity and at least one other religion each year. Our focus is on Islam and Judaism, the predominant local religions and beliefs represented. Pupils also learn from other religions in thematic units.

Teaching the programmes of study contributes to developing religious and theological literacy through religions and worldviews. We explore eight key areas of learning throughout each key stage to meet the aims of our curriculum (in no particular order).

- Beliefs and practices
- Sources of wisdom
- Symbols and actions
- Prayer, worship and reflection
- Identity and belonging
- Ultimate questions
- Human responsibility and values
- Justice and fairness

The teaching of RE will involve some direct teaching and whole class, group, paired or individual activities. Through a range of strategies, such as: enquiry, exploration, discussion, asking and answering questions, artefacts, visits and visitors of faith and belief, pupils are actively engaged in learning.

Time Allocation for RE

In line with the requirements of the Hertfordshire Agreed Syllabus of Religious Education 2017-2022:

At EYFS RE is delivered flexibly according to the statutory requirements of the EYFS.

At Key Stage 1 pupils spend 60 hours over 2 years (approximately 10 hours per term).

These minimum time requirements include visits and RE curriculum days but not school productions related to festivals, assembly or collective worship time.

Withdrawal

Parents of a pupil at a community, foundation or voluntary school have a right to withdraw their children from RE. If a parent asks for their child to be wholly or partly excused from attending any RE the school must comply unless the request is withdrawn. Any parent who wishes to withdraw their child is expected to consult the headteacher. Teachers may also withdraw from the teaching of RE. At Cunningham Hill Infant School it is our practice to talk to parents to ensure the aims and value of the RE curriculum before honouring this right.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

The Hertfordshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2017-2022 sets out a structure for recognising pupil achievements and each pupil can work progressively towards achieving the expected end of key stage learning outcomes as a requirement outlined in the syllabus. Assessment in RE is seen in its broadest sense and is not limited to measurement and testing.

Through activities such as discussion with pupils, group activities, marking and guiding their work, observing, displaying work, asking and answering questions, teachers are continually finding out about their pupils' achievements. This information is then recorded against expected learning outcomes wheels for assessment and in line with other areas of the curriculum.

School reports which include RE are sent home in the Spring term of each year.

Planning

In order to ensure that our aims are met and the Programme of Study is covered at each key stage the school follows the enquiry based approach set out in "Religion for Today and Tomorrow" non-statutory guidance supporting the Hertfordshire Agreed Syllabus of Religious Education 2017-2022 and some additional elements of the previous Hertfordshire Primary Scheme of Work for RE (2012-2017) have been retained. Our long term planning builds-in coverage of and progression in both the content and concepts outlined in the eight areas of learning. Our schemes of work ensure that pupils have encountered and explored the religions through the EYFS and Key Stage 1. We use a combination of teaching RE through the creative curriculum, RE days and as a separate subject, depending on the material which has to be covered.

Short term planning of individual lessons is the responsibility of the class teacher. The RE Subject Leader is available to help with this and keeps a range of teachers' resources as a guide. When planning each unit of work, the teacher will identify which parts of the programme of study are to be the focus, the learning objectives for the unit, the learning tasks planned to achieved them, time allocated and any resources, visits or visitors needed. The work planned must be relevant to the needs of all pupils.

Cross Curricular Approaches

RE teaching and learning will be the means to many wider cross-curricular themes and dimensions. Children's skills in oracy and literacy will be enhanced. Problem-solving, decision-making and interpersonal skills will be developed.

The following are all essential contributing factors in providing outstanding RE teaching and learning for all children; the RE curriculum makes a significant contribution to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development knowledge and awareness of British values, including awareness of Prevent, keeping children safe and the diversity, equality and cohesion agendas.

Leadership and Management

The RE subject leader manages this area of the curriculum in line with our job description for subject leaders.

There is a yearly staff meeting on RE, led by the subject leader, where areas for development are discussed. This policy is reviewed at that meeting to ensure it still represents the values and practice of the school.