

“Together we can achieve more”

Highfield Primary School



Religious Education Policy 2025



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Religious Education Policy

Definition and Legal requirements.

Religious Education promotes pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development through learning about religions and learning from religions. It develops pupils' personal and social education and citizenship by looking at the beliefs and values of world religions and non-religious views and how they influence human society.

By law, non-denominational schools are required to teach Religious Education according to the local Agreed Syllabus. At our school we follow the Enfield Agreed Syllabus and schemes of work. The Agreed Syllabus assumes 36 hours of RE learning per year at KS1 and 45 hours at KS2. This is quite separate from and does not include time allocated for collective worship.

Pupils within the Foundation Stage follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum covering Knowledge and Understanding of the World as a foundation to Religious Education in KS1 and KS2.

Parents have the right to withdraw pupils from RE lessons. This right is also extended to teachers. The headteacher must be informed of the intention to withdraw.

Aims

- To develop knowledge and understanding of world faiths including Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Sikhism, Islam and non-religious beliefs.
- To learn **from** religions in addition to gaining knowledge and understanding **about** religions.
- To engage and express thoughts around key questions involving religious and non-religious worldviews.
- To promote an interest in Religious Education and active engagement in learning in this area.
- To promote understanding, tolerance and respect for the beliefs and values of others in our multi-faith society.
- To help the individual child to develop spiritual awareness and personal beliefs and values in a non-threatening context.
- To provide a safe environment where pupils of all faiths, and pupils without a religious belief, can express their opinions whilst respecting other's different views.
- To protect the integrity of pupils by ensuring that the teaching is not designed to convert or urge a particular religion or religious belief.

Learning and Teaching in RE.

Highfield School uses the Enfield Schemes of Work 2023 (new scheme). The schemes of work enable pupils to investigate, interpret and reflect upon the religious beliefs and practices of Christianity and other world faiths. They enable pupils to develop essential attitudes of respect, enquiry and self-understanding in progressing their knowledge and understanding in RE.

The schemes of work provide for continuity and progression.

It is expected that each year group will make a visit to a place of worship as specified in the scheme of work. This ensures that children have visited a place of worship related to all major world faiths by the time they leave our school.

Active learning in RE is important in our school. This includes opportunities for drama, discussion and debate, dance, music, cross curricular links and problem solving. Children must be given opportunities to develop their knowledge and understanding through an enquiry-based approach

and the use of artefacts, posters, videos, music etc. It is seen as important that children learn from people of faith. Visitors are therefore welcome in the school. It is essential that visitors and children are prepared for these visits beforehand.

The RE curriculum is delivered in line with the school's Teaching and Learning Policy and Equal Opportunities Policy. (See appendix for Skills in RE and guidelines for visitors).

Assessment

Assessment is part of an ongoing process of setting clear objectives and success criteria and evaluating outcomes in line with these. Each lesson has a key question, which feeds into the children answering the Big Question discussed and shared at the start of each unit.

Children complete a mini assessment task at the end of each unit – answering the Big Question for the unit. At the end of the year, teachers are expected to report attainment in RE to parents in the final school report. Teachers can seek guidance from the RE Curriculum leader on this.

Roles and Responsibilities

RE Curriculum Leader

- Monitor learning and teaching in RE and identify strengths and weaknesses in order to raise standards.
- To be familiar with the legal requirements for RE in schools, to keep staff informed of these and to ensure that they are being met.
- To liaise with other schools, members of the community and religious organisations as appropriate.
- To assist in implementing units of work and lesson plans.
- To maintain close links with local churches and other religious communities.
- To resource the RE curriculum.
- To keep up to date with and share resources with staff regarding inclusive and practical remote learning activities.

Class Teacher.

- Adhere to school policy and guidelines.

Policy Drafted:

Spring 2009

Agreed by staff:

Summer 2009

Agreed by Governors:

Summer 2009

Updated and Reviewed

Autumn 2025