

West Ashton Church of England Primary School



RE Policy

Dated: March 2023

Review date: March 2025

‘You will shine among them like stars in the sky.’

Philippians 2:15 (NIVUK)

Introduction

RE is central to the purpose of West Ashton CE Primary school because, as a church school, we see that the Christian faith informs all aspects of our life together and commits us to a search for truth.

RE explores how individuals and communities make meaning and sense of their lives through the major religions of the world. It enables pupils to know about, understand and respond to the important and ultimate questions of life. RE is taught in such a way that it inspires pupils to explore, consider their own faith and values and have respect for the faith, beliefs and values of others.

West Ashton Intent

RE supports and strengthens our vision, ethos and values, which are at the heart of what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. The importance placed on the development of the whole child spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected in the RE curriculum as well as the broader school curriculum.

RE aims to enable pupils of all abilities and stages of development to:

- develop knowledge and understanding of Christian beliefs and practices so that they understand the importance of the Bible, the role of the church and recognise that for Christians their faith provides a way of interpreting life and its meaning.
- develop knowledge and understanding of the beliefs and practices of the other major religions in Britain.
- understand how belief may impact on culture, relationships, values and lifestyle.
- understand how belief can be expressed in a variety of ways including art, dance, music, ritual celebration and in different cultural settings.
- develop spiritually, morally, culturally and socially by helping them to reflect upon personal feelings, responses and relationships.
- explore ways in which religious values and teaching have an impact on actions and decisions for people of faith
- be supported in their own search for meaning and purpose in life.
- develop a sense of awe, wonder and mystery.
- explore concepts of love, forgiveness and sacrifice.
- develop skills of reflection, empathy, communication, analysis, investigation, interpretation, evaluation and synthesis.
- develop attitudes of respect, sensitivity, open-mindedness and self-esteem.

Implementation

RE has an important part to play as part of the broad, balanced and coherent curriculum we provide for all pupils. High quality learning experiences in RE are designed and provided by careful planning through the agreed syllabi -Discovery R.E and Understanding Curriculum – and with visitors or visits to offer first-hand learning experiences, taking into account the need to offer breadth of content

In order to make religious education a lively, active subject, we employ a variety of teaching methods including art, music, discussion, the development of thinking skills, drama, the use of artefacts, pictures, and stories, as well as periods of stillness and reflection

All pupils at West Ashton are taught RE as a discrete subject each week.

Impact

The school's Christian values

RE contributes to the promotion of the school's distinctively Christian values. Making connections between the values and learning in RE will bring about greater understanding of the values and how they can be put into practice across a range of experiences.

The school community

RE provides a positive context within which the diversity of cultures, beliefs and values can be celebrated and explored.

The community within which the school is located

RE provides opportunities to investigate patterns of diversity of religion and belief and forge links with different groups in the local area in particular local churches

Respect for all

RE makes an important contribution to a school's responsibility to promote respect for all. It provides a key context to develop young people's understanding and appreciation of diversity, to promote shared values and to challenge racism, discrimination & extremism. A major focus of RE is the study of diversity of religion and belief in the UK and how this influences national life. It also involves the study of matters of global significance recognising the diversity of religion and belief and its impact on world issues.

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development

SMSC prepares pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life. Learning about and from religions and beliefs, through the distinct knowledge, understanding and skills contained in RE within a broad-based curriculum, is essential to achieving these aims. Exploring the concepts of religion and belief and their roles in the spiritual, moral and cultural lives of people in a diverse society helps individuals develop moral awareness and social understanding. Also refer to the Spirituality Policy.

The promotion of British Values

RE provides opportunities to promote the British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, tolerance of different cultures and religions & mutual respect.

Equality

Positive attitudes towards mathematics are encouraged, so that all pupils, regardless of race, gender, ability or special needs, including those for whom English is a second language, develop an enjoyment and confidence with mathematics. Please also refer to the Pupil Premium policy

Assessment and recording of RE

RE is planned on a termly basis and assessment is recorded at the end of term using the syllabi assessment files for each topic and based on learning outcomes. Recording of children's learning may be through written work in individual books, class books, artwork, poetry or photographs.

Monitoring RE

Standards of teaching and learning in RE are monitored through observations and pupil voice as well as book scrutiny. The RE curriculum lead also works with the Head Teacher to monitor RE through the SIAMS School Self Evaluation

The right of withdrawal from RE

At West Ashton school, we are an inclusive community but recognise that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from religious education on the grounds of conscience.

However, the right of withdrawal does not extend to other areas of the curriculum when, as may happen on occasions, spontaneous questions on religious matters are raised by pupils or there are issues related to religion that arise in other subjects such as history or citizenship.

The school will ensure that parents who want to withdraw their children from RE are aware of the RE syllabus and that it is relevant to all pupils and respects their own personal beliefs. We would ask any parent considering this to contact the head teacher to discuss any concerns or anxieties about the policy, provision and practice of religious education at West Ashton School.

The school may also wish to review such a request each year, in discussion with the parents.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Spirituality Policy and the Collective Worship Policy.