



Religious Education (RE) Policy

Review: January 2024

Aims and objectives

Religious Education enables children to investigate and reflect on some of the most fundamental questions asked by people. At Herrick Primary School we develop the children's knowledge and understanding of the major world faiths.

We enable children to develop a sound knowledge not only of Christianity but also of other world religions, especially those that are the main faiths of children and staff within our school. Children reflect on what it means to have a faith and to develop their own spiritual knowledge and understanding. We help the children learn *from* religions as well as *about* religions.

The aims of Religious Education are to help children:

- develop an awareness of spiritual and moral issues in life experiences
- develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other major world religions and value systems found in Britain
- develop an understanding of what it means to be committed to a religious tradition
- be able to reflect on their own experiences and to develop a personal response to the fundamental questions of life
- develop an understanding of religious traditions and to appreciate the cultural differences in Britain today
- develop investigative and research skills and to enable them to make reasoned judgements about religious issues
- have respect for other peoples' views and to celebrate the diversity in society

The legal position of Religious Education

The religious education curriculum forms an important part of our school's spiritual, moral and social teaching. It also promotes education for citizenship. Our school RE curriculum is based on SACRE and the LCC's Agreed Syllabus and it meets all the requirements set out in that document. The Education Reform Act 1988 (ERA) states that the RE syllabus should reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, and that it should, at the same time, take account of the teachings and practices of other major religions. This does not include Collective Worship time as this is a separate requirement

Trips

Every year group in KS2 will visit at least one place of worship during the academic year. When they leave Herrick Primary School, the children will have experienced a place of worship for many different faiths. We visit places of worship as guests and learners NOT as worshippers.

Curriculum planning in Religious Education

We plan our Religious Education curriculum in accordance with the Leicester City Council Agreed Syllabus. We ensure that the topics studied in religious education build upon prior learning. We offer opportunities for children of all abilities to develop their skills and knowledge in each unit, and we ensure that the planned progression built into the scheme of work offers the children an increasing challenge as they move through the school.

The content is based upon the programmes of study of 'Leicester Agreed Syllabus for RE (Revised 2004)'. The programme of study is arranged into 4 strands -

1. Knowledge, skills and understanding
2. Religions and beliefs
3. Themes
4. Experiences and opportunities

There are two attainment targets – (1) Learning about religion and (2) learning from religion

Assessment and Record Keeping

- Class and group assessments will be made by class teachers. These will be built into planning where appropriate.
- At the end of each term, children complete an online Lumio assessment.
- Subject Builders are used to ensure all children are secure with key knowledge at the end of each phase.
- Teachers complete a termly grid

Monitoring and Evaluation Procedures

- The Subject Leader will carry out evaluations during an academic year and share findings.

R.E and the Law

The 1994 Educational Act states:

1. There must be provision for R.E. for all pupils.
2. R.E must be non-denominational and must be in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus. These provisions should ensure that the personal beliefs of the pupil, the teacher and the integrity of the subject itself are respected. This reflects the fact that religious traditions in the country are in the main Christian, whilst taking into account the teaching practices of other principle religions represented in Great Britain.
3. Parents have the right to withdraw a child from R.E. We will endeavour to discuss parents' concerns with them and try to come to an amicable arrangement, which will be of benefit to the child and incur no extra cost to the school. If children are withdrawn, then parents and teachers need to agree that this is not an opportunity to work on any other area of the National Curriculum, but a time in which children can develop their religious, moral or ethical views.

Special considerations

At Herrick the majority of our children are Hindu but we also have children of other faiths including Muslim, Christian, Sikh and Jain. We acknowledge that the beliefs and values of the family are the strongest element in the child's development. Some pupils will have been

brought up in homes and communities where they have received religious instruction from an early age, whilst others may come from non – religious backgrounds.

The purpose of R.E. is not to undermine the views and values of families but to respect them. This will include-

- Recognition of special days / festivals.
- Recognition of special diets
- Recognition of fasting

Collective Worship

The 1998 Education Act requires a daily act of collective worship for all Pupils'. Herrick Primary School has successfully applied for a 'SACRE Determination'.

Resources

We have a wide variety of resources in our school to be able to teach the lessons approved by the RE Syllabus.