

Religious Education Policy

Revised – Oct 2022

In our school our Christian vision and school values - *responsibility, creativity, respect, compassion, resilience, friendship* - shape all we do and say. These are woven into our RE curriculum.

Religious education in a Church school should enable every child to flourish and to 'live life in all its fullness.' (John 10:10). It will help educate for dignity and respect, encouraging all to live life well together. (RE Statement of Entitlement from the Church of England Education Office Feb 2019)

Policy statement:

We are a caring, Christian community. In recognising both the Christian Foundation of the school and the legal requirements for teaching RE, our teaching is based on a Church of England resource, "Understanding Christianity 2016" and the North Somerset agreed syllabus for RE, "Awareness, Mystery and Value 2016."

At Northleaze, we believe that Religious Education is fundamental in creating a safe space for pupils to explore their own beliefs and questions of meaning. Christianity is taught as a living and diverse faith, focused on the teachings of Jesus and the Church, alongside a range of religions and worldviews, including humanism. Through a varied curriculum, we strive to develop the children's knowledge and understanding of the major world faiths, and we address fundamental questions concerning, for example, the meaning of life and the existence of a divine spirit. Children will have opportunities to 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.

RE is a statutory subject within the foundation curriculum. This statement taken from the AMV website, used by North Somerset, explains why:

- An *understanding of religions and beliefs* is vital if children and young people are to gain the insights they need to make the most of their opportunities in life and to cope with the difficulties they will inevitably face.
- 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 develops pupils' knowledge and understanding of Christianity, other principal religions, other religious traditions, and other world views that offer answers to these challenging questions.
- It offers opportunities for personal reflection and spiritual development. It enhances pupils' awareness and understanding of religions and beliefs, teachings, practices and forms of expression, as well as of the influence of religion on individuals, families, communities and cultures.
- RE encourages pupils to learn from different religions, beliefs, values and traditions, while exploring their own beliefs and questions of meaning. It should challenge pupils to reflect on, consider, analyse, interpret and evaluate issues of truth, belief, faith and ethics and to communicate their responses.
- RE encourages pupils to develop their sense of identity and belonging. It enables them to flourish individually within their communities and as citizens in a diverse society and global community. RE has an important role in preparing pupils for adult life, employment and lifelong

learning. It enables pupils to develop respect for and sensitivity to others, in particular those whose faiths and beliefs are different from their own. It promotes discernment and enables pupils to combat prejudice.

<http://amv.somerset.gov.uk/requirements/legal-requirements/importance-rationale-vision/>

Aims:

The aims of Northleaze School's Religious Education are drawn from the North Somerset Agreed Syllabus and help pupils to:

- acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and the other principal religions represented in Great Britain, including no faith/religion;
- develop an understanding of the influences of beliefs, values and traditions of individuals, communities, societies and cultures;
- develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues with reference to the teaching of the principal religion, including no faith/religion, represented in Great Britain;
- enhance their spiritual, moral, cultural and social development by developing awareness of the fundamental questions of life raised by human experience, and how religious teaching can relate to them;
- enable children to reflect on their own beliefs, values and experiences in the light of their study of RE;
- bring children to the knowledge that there are central elements to religions – e.g. rituals, ceremonies, festivals and moral values, and an understanding of what it means to be committed to a religious tradition;
- develop a positive attitude towards other people's views; respecting their right to hold different beliefs from their own, and building an appreciation that we live in a society of diverse religions and no faith/religion

Guidelines:

- Religious Education is a statutory requirement for all children, having equal standing with the National Curriculum subjects. It is the legal collective responsibility of the whole governing body to determine the religious education syllabus in accordance with the Trust deed.
- To support teaching and learning of Christianity, we follow the theological concepts and guidance set out in the Church of England's resource, "Understanding Christianity." We will also follow the programmes of study and curriculum guidance set out in the agreed North Somerset syllabus "Awareness, Mystery and Value" to support our teaching of other world religions.
- RE is taught weekly in every class at Northleaze School. Reflecting Northleaze School's academy funding agreement, Christianity should be the majority religion studied and should be at least 50% of curriculum time. Sufficient dedicated curriculum time, meeting explicitly RE objectives, should be given to RE. This should aim to be close to 10% but no less than 5% in key stages 1 and 2.
- Parents have the right by law to withdraw their children from the RE curriculum. In this event, the school will undertake responsibility for their supervision with regard to health and safety. Parents are informed of the RE curriculum for each term through the class curriculum map and through information on the [curriculum page of the website](#). There will always be opportunity for parents to discuss the contents of the RE curriculum with the class teacher or subject leader, should they have concerns. We would ask any parent considering withdrawing their child from RE to contact the Headteacher to discuss any concerns about the policy, provision and practice of religious education at our school.

- Care should be taken to respect the religious or non-religious background and cultural traditions of all children and staff.
- A link governor will be nominated who will be responsible for liaising with the curriculum leader for RE to ensure that RE is being delivered in an appropriate manner and that all legal requirements are being met.

Implementation

- Religious education may be taught in a 'whole class' setting but with flexibility to allow for discussion, questioning and reflection in small groups and individually
- Visits to local churches and other places of worship are encouraged
- A variety of teaching approaches are encouraged; for example:
 - Teacher presentations, role play, drama and story telling
 - Questions and answer sessions, discussions and debates
 - Individual and group research
 - Photographs, pictures and maps
 - IT, film, podcasts, radio, websites, to research and communicate ideas.
- In Reception and KS1, the class RE journeys are documented in a class RE book. In KS2, children have individual RE books and learning should be recorded in this book at least every second week.
- Opportunities for prayer are also supported through class prayer books where children write and contribute prayers.

Provision for SEND pupils

All children should be able to participate in RE lessons, regardless of ability. The RE leader and class teachers will work alongside the SENDCO to ensure that the RE curriculum is adapted to meet the needs of all learners. Teachers will make use of the agreed upon best practices for making learning accessible for SEND pupils.

Leadership of RE

The school RE lead attends the North Somerset Learn, Teach, Lead hub meetings three times per year for curriculum and diocese updates and will share this with staff as appropriate. S/he is also responsible for supporting colleagues in their teaching, for being informed about current developments in the subject, and for providing a strategic lead and direction for RE in the school. The school also has an Ethos Committee and this team meets three times a year to review and report on progress in the subject.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The implementation of the RE curriculum is monitored in a range of different ways including:

- Classroom visits
- Pupil Voice
- Work sampling
- Assessment grids

Foundation Governors also undertake monitoring of RE.

Date of last review: October 2022

Headteacher signed: *Victoria Reyes* **Date:** October 2022

Chair of Governors signed: *Rowena Davin* **Date:** October 2022