

Hawridge and Cholesbury CE School



Religious Education Policy

Our Vision is for every child within the Hawridge & Cholesbury family to grow, flourish 'have life and ... have it more abundantly' (John 10:10 KLV); to be fascinated, rounded, eager to make a difference, spiritual and have high aspirations through Jesus' teaching and our curriculum.

We live our vision through our natural setting and our school values:

**Respect Teamwork Responsibility Understanding
Peace Honesty**

Approved by the Governing Body on 15 May 2024

Next review: March 2027

Section 1: Introduction

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to describe our practice in Religious Education (RE) and the principles upon which this is based.

Aim(s):

Our work in RE enables our pupils to investigate and reflect on some of the most fundamental questions asked by people. Children will develop knowledge and understanding of major world faiths and we address fundamental questions concerning, for example, the meaning of life and the existence of a divine spirit. 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 within our local community. 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 **objectives** of teaching religious education in our school are to help children:

- develop an awareness of spiritual and moral issues arising in their lives;
- 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 make reasoned judgements about religious issues;
- have respect for other people's views, and celebrate the diversity in society.

Wider school aims/ethos:

This policy supports our school values of Respect, Teamwork, Responsibility Understanding, Peace and Honesty and is integrated as part of our FRESH curriculum where we provide opportunities for all children to be fascinated, rounded, eager to make a difference, spiritual and hold high aspirations.

The legal position of religious education:

Our school curriculum for religious education meets the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act (ERA). The ERA stipulates that religious education is compulsory for all children. The ERA allows parents to withdraw their child from religious education classes if they so wish, although only after they have given written notice to the school governors. The ERA also allows teachers to refuse to teach religious education, but only after they have given due notice of their intention to the school governors. 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 the Diocese of Oxford's Syllabus, and it meets all the requirements set out in the Bucks Agreed syllabus. The ERA states that the RE syllabus should reflect the fact that 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.

Sources and references:

The following non-statutory guidance was consulted when completing this policy, [non statutory guidance](#)

Comment [SW1]: Would be helpful to say what the source of this guidance/what its title is

Section 2: Procedures and practice

- The RE subject leader is responsible for writing an annual action plan for the development of RE. This is part of the whole school development plan to which all staff and governors have access. In addition the RE subject leader role includes the monitoring of resources available in school. The RE subject leader is responsible for planning the collective worship. Vicars from two churches in Chesham also support in delivering whole school worship throughout the year.
- Class teachers are responsible for planning and teaching RE following the Oxford Diocesan scheme of work. They are responsible for ensuring daily prayers are used in the class. An area of reflection should be evident in each classroom which is developed in response to current events and pupil need.
- The governor for RE is responsible for meeting at least once a year with the RE leader, for discussing subject strengths and areas for development, and for reporting these to the governing body.

Organisation:

- RE lessons are timetabled to take place each week and range from 40 – 60 minutes. This does not include daily collective worship time.

Parental partnership

- Parents are invited to attend special events such as Harvest assembly and Christmas Nativity performances, Christmas Carol concerts, Mothering Sunday celebrations and Easter celebrations.
- Parents are invited to bring their own cultures and religious expertise into school to share in worships or classroom lessons.

Resources:

RE resources are stored on labelled shelves and boxes in the attic. The RE subject leader is responsible for maintaining and updating these.

Assessment:

Class teachers are to complete half-termly assessments which are provided as part of the Oxford Diocese planning. These are shared with the RE subject lead.

Subject monitoring:

The RE subject leader is responsible for monitoring and evaluating the teaching and learning of RE. This will be done through lesson observations and book looks and pupil voice. These strategies will be spread over the year.

Section 3: Concluding notes

Monitoring and review:

The governor with responsibility for RE is primarily responsible for monitoring the implementation of this policy. This will be through annual discussion with the subject leader and after taking part in a learning walk. The governor will report on this to the curriculum committee annually.

Other documents and appendices:

The RE policy should be read in conjunction with our policy for Collective Worship.