

Religious Education (RE) Education Policy

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Author:	Clare Barham	Approver:	
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Introduction

Religious Education is unique in the school curriculum in that it is neither a core subject nor a foundation subject but the 1988 Education Act states that 'Religious Education has equal standing in relation to core subjects of the National Curriculum in that it is compulsory for all registered pupils'.

Religious Education is taught in our school because it makes:

"a major contribution to the education of children and young people. At its best, it is intellectually challenging and personally enriching. It helps young people develop beliefs and values, and promotes the virtues of respect and empathy, which are important in our diverse society. It fosters civilised debate and reasoned argument, and helps pupils to understand the place of religion and belief in the modern world". (RE: realising the potential, Ofsted 2013).

This fits with our school ethos of '*striving for our children to be creative, innovative, and imaginative, and we are committed to the safety and care of our pupils.*'

School name is a Rodbourne Cheney Primary School. We deliver RE in line with the Swindon Locally Agreed Syllabus We use the Jigsaw RE programme as our scheme of work.

This RE policy is informed by current national guidance:

- RE in English Schools: Non-statutory guidance 2010 (https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/190260/DCSF-00114-2010.pdf)
- RE : realising the potential Ofsted 2013 (www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/religious-education-realising-potential/)
- A Curriculum Framework for RE in England, REC 2013 (<http://resubjectreview.recouncil.org.uk/re-review-report>)

The aims of our RE, using the Jigsaw RE Scheme of Work

Jigsaw RE meets the requirements of our locally agreed syllabus and is aligned to the non- statutory guidance described above.

By following Jigsaw RE Rodbourne Cheney Primary School we intend that Religious Education will:-

- **adopt an enquiry- based approach** as recommended by Ofsted, beginning with the children's own life experience before moving into learning about and from religion.
- **provoke challenging questions** about the meaning and purpose of life, beliefs, the self, and issues of right and wrong, commitment and belonging. It develops pupils' knowledge and understanding of Christianity, other principal religions, and religious traditions that examine these questions, fostering personal reflection and spiritual development.
- **encourage pupils to explore their own beliefs** (religious or non-religious), in the light of what they learn, as they examine issues of religious belief and faith and how these impact on personal, institutional and social ethics; and to express their responses.
- **enable pupils to build their sense of identity and belonging**, which helps them flourish within their communities and as citizens in a diverse society.
- **teach pupils to develop respect for others**, including people with different faiths and beliefs, and helps to challenge prejudice.
- **prompt pupils to consider their responsibilities** to themselves and to others, and to explore how they might contribute to their communities and to wider society. It encourages empathy, generosity and compassion.
- **develop a sense of awe, wonder and mystery.**
- **nurture children's own spiritual development.**

Jigsaw RE Content

Jigsaw RE covers all areas of RE for the primary phase, Christianity plus Hinduism, Judaism and Islam. The grid below shows specific enquiries for each year group. We use the term Worldview below to encompass both religions and worldviews.

Foundation Stage 2 (Reception):

Jigsaw RE Enquiry	Worldview studied:
What makes people special?	Christianity, Judaism
What is Christmas	Christianity
How do people celebrate?	Islam/Judaism
What is Easter?	Christianity
What can we learn from stories?	Christianity, Islam, Sanatana Dharma, Sikhi
What makes people special?	Christianity, Islam, Judaism.

KS1 and KS2

Year Group	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Reception	Special people	Christmas	Celebrations	Easter	Stories	Special Places
Year 1	Christianity Enquiry Question: What do Christians believe about God?	Judaism Enquiry Question: Who is God to the Jews?	Judaism Enquiry Question: Is Shabbat important to Jewish children?	Christianity Enquiry Question: What gifts might Christians in my town have given Jesus if he had been born here rather than in Bethlehem?	Judaism Enquiry Question: Does visiting the synagogue help Jewish children feel closer to God?	Christianity Enquiry Question: Why was Jesus welcomed like a king or celebrity by the crowds on Palm Sunday?
Year 2	Christianity Enquiry Question: Is it possible to be kind to everyone all of the time?	Islam Enquiry Question: Who is God to Muslims?	Islam Enquiry Question: How important is the prophet Muhammad to Muslims?	Christianity Enquiry Question: Why do Christians believe God gave Jesus to the world?	Islam Enquiry Question: How important is the Qur'an to Muslims?	Christianity Enquiry Question: How important is it to Christians that Jesus came back to life after his crucifixion?
Year 3	Judaism Enquiry Question: What is the best way for a Jew to lead a good life?	Christianity Enquiry Question: Has Christmas lost its true meaning?	Christianity Enquiry Question: Could Jesus heal people? Did He perform miracles or was there some other explanation?	Christianity Enquiry Question: What is 'good' about Good Friday?	Judaism Enquiry Question: How do Jewish beliefs, teachings and stories impact on daily life?	Judaism Enquiry Question: How does celebrating Shavuot help Jewish children feel closer to God?
Year 4	Islam Enquiry Question: Does praying at regular	Christianity Enquiry Question: What is the most	Islam Enquiry Question: Does completing a	Christianity Enquiry Question: Is forgiveness	Islam Enquiry Question: What is the best	Christianity Enquiry Question: Do people need to go

	intervals help Muslims in their everyday lives?	significant part of the nativity story for Christians today?	pilgrimage make a person a better Muslim?	always possible for Christians?	way for a Muslim to lead a good life?	to church to show they are Christians?
Year 5	Hinduism (Sanatana Dharma) Enquiry Question: What is the best way for a Sanatani to show commitment to God?	Christianity Enquiry Question: Is the Christmas story true?	Hinduism (Sanatana Dharma) Enquiry Question: How can Brahman be everywhere and in everything?	Christianity Enquiry Question: How significant is it for Christians to believe that God intended Jesus to die?	Hinduism (Sanatana Dharma) Enquiry Question: Do beliefs in Karma Samsara and Moksha help Sanatanis lead good lives?	Christianity Enquiry Question: What is the best way for a Christian to show commitment to God?
Year 6	Christianity Enquiry Question: How significant is it that Mary was Jesus' mother?	Christianity Enquiry Question: Is anything ever eternal?	Christianity Enquiry Question: Is Christianity still a strong religion over 2000 years after Jesus was on Earth?			Humanism How do inspirational people impact on how Humanists live today?

How is RE organised in this school?

Jigsaw RE brings together learning about and from religion, questioning and spiritual development in a comprehensive scheme of learning. Teaching strategies are varied and are mindful of teaching and learning theories and the need for adaptive teaching. Each enquiry starts from the children's own life experiences using these as a bridge into the investigation of the religion being studied.

Learning is assessed and children have opportunity to express their own thoughts and beliefs and empathise with believers of that religion or belief position. RE is taught on a weekly basis.

SEND Provision

Jigsaw RE is written as a universal core curriculum provision for all children. Inclusivity is part of its philosophy. Teachers will add to the planning to meet the needs of the children in their classes. To support this, many enquiries suggest creative learning activities that allow children to choose the media with which they work and give them scope to work to their full potential. To further help teachers adapt the teaching, for children in KS1 and 2, each enquiry has exemplars for those children working towards the learning objective, at the expected level for this age group and those working beyond the expected level of achievement.

Assessment

Teachers are eager to ensure children are making progress with their learning throughout their RE. Therefore, each enquiry has built-in assessment. This task is the formal opportunity for teacher assessment of the children's knowledge of that religion, depth of critical thinking, and ability to answer the enquiry question. This stand-alone evidence is used in conjunction with other evidence such as records of discussions, recorded work and annotations from other lessons within the enquiry to assist the teacher in assessing whether a child is working at the expected level or towards or beyond it. Children are assessed over three aspects of learning:

- a personal resonance with or reflection on the material/religion being studied to answer the enquiry question.
- knowledge and understanding of the material/religion being studied to answer the enquiry question.
- evaluation/critical thinking in relation to the enquiry question

These are tracked throughout the planning stage so that teachers can utilise the appropriate evidence accordingly. In line with non-statutory guidance issued by the RE Council in 2013 (cited on page 1) descriptors of these aspects utilise age-related expectations of working towards, working at the expected attainment and working beyond.

Recording and tracking progress

To support the teacher in tracking each child's progress throughout the year, there is an overview sheet for each enquiry on which to record the progress of the whole class. This supports teacher overview and facilitates subject leader monitoring and moderation.

The Attainment Descriptors

The attainment descriptors contained within Jigsaw RE are 3 fold to match with what the majority of schools are using, although their language may be different. *Here you can align the 3 Jigsaw RE titles with what your own school is using.*

Monitoring and evaluation

The RE leader monitors delivery of the programme through observation and discussion with teaching staff, as well as discussions with children and scrutiny of their written work to ensure consistent and coherent curriculum provision.

Evaluation of the programme's effectiveness is conducted on the basis of:

- Pupil and teacher evaluation of the content and learning processes
- Staff meetings to review and share experience
- Monitoring of assessment to ensure progression throughout the school.

External contributors

RE gives particular opportunities to promote an ethos of respect for others, challenge stereotypes and build understanding of other cultures and beliefs. This contributes to promoting a positive and inclusive school ethos that champions democratic values and human rights. The British Values agenda is intrinsic to Jigsaw RE.

External contributors from the community, e.g. local clergy, local members/speakers from other religions etc make a valuable contribution to the RE programme as do visits to places of worship. Their input is carefully planned and monitored so as to fit into and complement the programme.

Teachers are always present during these sessions and remain responsible for the effective delivery of the RE programme.

The Learning Environment

Establishing a safe, open and positive learning environment based on trusting relationships between all members of the class, adults and children alike, is vital. To enable this, it is important that respect for each others' views and beliefs and those of the believers of that religion is encouraged at all times and that any artefacts are handled with respect and care. For this reason we provide the Jigsaw RE Charter.

Teaching Sensitive and Controversial Issues

Sensitive and controversial issues are certain to arise in learning from real-life experience and discussing personal beliefs.

Topics are presented using a variety of views and beliefs so that pupils are able to form their own, informed opinions but also respect that others have the right to different opinions. Teachers should never feel obliged to discuss their own beliefs unless they feel comfortable doing so and can ensure that this will not influence or restrict the children's own expression. (*Church schools may wish to include a comment regarding upholding the Christian ethos of the school whilst still respecting the beliefs and views of others*).

Involving parents and carers

The school believes that it is important to have the support of parents, carers and the wider community for the RE programme. Parents and carers are/will be given the opportunity to find out about and discuss RE through:

- * Response to RE comments on reports
- * Curriculum newsletters
- * Displays
- * (Where RE is integrated- topic based homework as appropriate).

Withdrawal from RE lessons:

Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the Religious Education. Those parents/carers wishing to exercise this right are invited in to see the head teacher and/or RE Leader who will explore any concerns and discuss any impact that withdrawal may have on the child. 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. Parents will be made aware of the learning objectives and what is covered in the RE curriculum and should be given the opportunity to discuss this, if they wish. The school may also wish to review such a request each year, in discussion with the parents. The use of the right to withdraw should be at the instigation of parents and it should be made clear whether it is from the whole of the subject or specific parts of it. No reasons need be given. Where parents have requested that their child is withdrawn, their right must be respected, and *where RE is integrated in the curriculum, the school will need to discuss the arrangements with the parents or carers to explore how the child's withdrawal can be best accommodated*. Once a child has been withdrawn they cannot take part in the RE programme until the request for withdrawal has been removed.

As a school it is our duty to inform our local Standing Advisory Council on RE regarding the numbers of children being withdrawn.

Links to other policies and curriculum areas

We recognise the clear link between RE and the following policies and staff are aware of the need to refer to these policies when appropriate.

- Teaching and Learning Policy
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- *SMSC Policy*
- *British Values*
- *Prevent Strategy*

Training and support for staff

All staff benefit from training in order to enhance their RE delivery skills. Opportunities are provided for staff to identify individual training needs on a yearly basis and relevant support is provided.

In addition to this, support for teaching and understanding RE issues is incorporated in our staff INSET programme, drawing on staff expertise and/or a range of external agencies.

Dissemination

This policy is available on our school website where it can be accessed by the community. Training is regularly delivered to staff on the policy content. Copies are available from the school office on request from parents/carers.

Policy Review

This policy is reviewed annually.

