



DANE ROYD SCHOOL

Religious Education

Review frequency: 3 years

Approval by:

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Lead personnel: Charlotte Stead

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Aims which guide our policies and practice

As a school, we seek to promote shared moral and ethical values to unite both local and global interests which enable children to become global citizens. Our agreed school aims are:

- To create a happy and stimulating learning environment, in which each child will develop to their full potential, thereby achieving high educational standards.*
- To develop self-awareness, self-respect and tolerance of others by developing an understanding of the world in which they live.*
- To appreciate human achievements and aspirations; develop aesthetic sensitivity and appreciation; physical ability and co-ordination and a concern for the safety of themselves and others.*
- To prepare children to live and work with others, enabling them to be responsible and caring members of the community.*
- To give children, at the end of their period of primary education, an appetite for acquiring further knowledge, experience and skills, so ensuring they are prepared for the challenges of the next stage in their education.*

We ensure that all of our policies and practices are guided by these aims and we seek to ensure that they are at the forefront of all that we do.

Religious education Policy

Introduction

Religious Education (RE) is not a National Curriculum subject, but must be taught to all pupils as part of the basic curriculum. As RE is not nationally determined, the Local Education Authority must provide an Agreed Syllabus for us to follow. It is this Wakefield Agreed Syllabus of Religious Education 2023- 2028 in which we use as the basis of our planning and delivery of RE. Families who send their children to this school are predominantly from non-religious backgrounds, however we have an increasing number of children with different religious beliefs, primarily from the Christian faith but not exclusively. (School census data 2018). Our RE is concerned with “learning about religion” and “learning from religion” - it is not the practice of this school to preach to or convert the children. The faith background of both the staff and child’s family is respected at all times. Parents of a pupil at a community, foundation or voluntary school have a right to withdraw their children from religious education (RE). If a parent asks for their child to be wholly or partly excused from attending any RE the school must comply unless the request is withdrawn. Any parent who wishes this may consult the Headteacher. Teachers may also withdraw from the teaching of RE.

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

Aims:

The principal aim:

the principal aim of RE, which is to engage pupils in systematic enquiry into significant human questions which religion and worldviews address, so that they can develop the understanding and skills needed to appreciate and appraise varied responses to these questions, as well as develop responses of their own. (Wakefield Agreed Syllabus 2023-2028)

RE aims to enable pupils to:

- Ask and answer challenging questions about the meaning and purpose in life, beliefs in God, ultimate reality, issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human.
- Learn about and from religion and worldviews in local, national and global contexts, to discover, explore and consider different answers to these questions.
- Learn the value of wisdom from different sources, to develop and express their insights in response, and to agree or disagree respectfully.
- Have systematic knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews, enabling them to develop their ideas, values and identities.
- To participate positively in our society, with its diverse religions and worldviews.
- To understand, interpret and evaluate texts, sources of wisdom and authority of other evidence.
- To articulate clearly and coherently their personal beliefs, values and experiences while respecting the right of others to differ.

RE benefits each learner by:

- Encouraging children to be healthy (in mind and body) by promoting a positive self-image, exploring religious traditions views to self-respect etc
- Encourages children to stay safe by providing opportunities to look at prejudice and discrimination, the difference between right and wrong, and a chance to explore a variety of religious principles that guide groups of people
- Helping children to enjoy and achieve by learning about themselves through exploring the big questions of life
- Helps children to make a positive contribution by developing the ability to disagree respectfully in a plural world

Wider school aims/ethos:

The effective teaching of religious education ensures that Dane Royd meets its wider goals of being a wholly inclusive school and prepares pupils for life as British and Global citizens.

Consultation: This policy was written by Charlotte Stead, Religious Education Co-Ordinator, in consultation with:

- Gemma Kendall (DHT)

Sources and references:

Wakefield Agreed syllabus 2023-2028

Roles and responsibilities

The RE subject leader manages this area of the curriculum in line with the job description for subject leaders. Class teachers/ Year group teams are to plan and prepare lessons for their own classes with guidance from the Wakefield Agreed Syllabus 2023-2028 and the planned units provided.

Aspects

Planning:

In order to ensure that our aims are met and the Programme of Study is covered at each key stage the school follows a clear scheme of work for RE which builds-in coverage of and progression in both the content and concepts outlined in the Agreed Syllabus. This scheme shows how we have planned that pupils have learned about and from “the six principal religions in line with law, through the EYFS and Key Stages 1

and 2". We have used a combination of teaching RE through the creative curriculum, RE days and as a separate subject, depending on the material which has to be covered.

Short term planning of individual lessons is a matter for the class teacher. The RE Subject Leader is available to help with this and keeps a range of teacher's resources as a guide. When planning each unit of work the teacher will identify which parts of the programme of study are to be the focus, the learning objectives for the unit, the learning tasks planned to achieve them, time allocated and any resources, visits or visitors needed. The work planned must be relevant to the needs of the pupils.

Teaching and organisation

Delivery of high standard RE will be delivered through:

- Weekly RE lessons
- Themed curriculum approaches
- Creative curriculum planning

The Wakefield Agreed syllabus 2023-2028 states the following times should be allocated to RE teaching, in line with the statutory requirements of the law:

UFS	36 hours of RE 50 minutes per week or short sessions implemented through continuous provision
KS1	36 hours of RE per year one hour per week or less than an hour with a series of RE days (Topic)
KS2	45 hours of RE per year one hour per week or a series of RE days or weeks amounting to 45+ hours of RE

RE is legally required for all pupils- The Agreed Syllabus Conference and DfE recommend a minimum of 5% curriculum time for the teaching of RE.

Assembly: RE is different from assembly. Curriculum time for Religious Education is distinct from the time schools may spend on collective worship or school assembly. The times given above are for Religious Education.

Homework/parent partnership:

Parents are encouraged to let their child fully participate in Religious Education at school and made aware of the wider benefits this subject has on the social and emotional, as well as the academic ability of the child.

Class teachers are to set RE homework where applicable in line with the school's homework policy.

Resources:

The school has a variety of resources to support the teaching of the six main world religions. These are located in topic boxes in the photocopier room. The school has numerous links with the wider community, particularly the local church and actively encourage visitors in to school for lessons and assemblies.

Displays:

Every classroom to showcase their current RE learning in line with what they have been teaching that half term. This can be a display on the wall, a table top display or windowsill display.

Assessment:

Class teachers are expected to track progress of pupils using the Wakefield Agreed syllabus outcomes and share progress with the Subject leader and SLT through the Foundation assessment grid.

Monitoring and evaluation:

The delivery of Religious Education will be monitored throughout school using:

- Observations;
- Children portfolio of work;
- Book scrutiny;
- Pupil voice.

Concluding notes**Monitoring and review:**

The leader with responsibility for Religious Education is primarily responsible for monitoring the implementation of this policy. This will be through annual discussion with staff and consideration of the evidence included in the subject leader portfolio. The Religious Education leader will report on this termly to the Governing Body.