



Thistly Meadow Primary School RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE) POLICY

Thistly Meadow Primary School

Religious Education Policy

Rationale

The teaching of Religious Education (RE) at Thistly Meadow Primary School aims to develop the ability and desire of pupils, to be caring, honest, informed and open-minded. The RE curriculum map is delivered in line with the Curriculum Framework for Religious Education in England (September 2016).

Principal Aim

The principal aim of RE is to engage pupils in systematic enquiry into significant human questions which religion and worldviews address, so that they can develop their understanding of these questions, as well as develop responses of their own. Through RE at Thistly Meadow, our aim is for all children to develop a sound knowledge of, and appreciation for religions and worldwide views that are taught.

- RE contributes dynamically to children and young people's education in schools by provoking challenging questions about meaning and purpose of life, beliefs about God, ultimate reality, issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human.
- In RE they learn about and from religion and worldviews in local, national and global contexts, to discover, explore and consider different answers to these questions.
- They learn to weigh up the value of wisdom from different sources, to develop and express their insights in response, and to agree or disagree respectfully.
- Teaching therefore should equip pupils with systematic knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews, enabling them to develop their ideas, values and identities,
- It should develop in pupils an aptitude for dialogue so that they can participate positively in our society, with its diverse religions and worldviews.
- Pupils should gain and deploy the skills needed to understand, interpret and evaluate texts, sources of wisdom and authority and other evidence. They should learn to articulate clearly and coherently their personal beliefs, ideas, values and experiences while respecting the right of others to differ.

The aim of RE

The threefold aim of RE elaborates the principal aim.

The curriculum for RE aims to ensure that all pupils:

1. Know about and understand a range of religions and world views, so that they can:
 - Describe, explain and analyse beliefs and practices, recognising the diversity which exists within and between communities and amongst individuals.

- Identify, investigate and respond to questions posed, and responses offered by some of the sources of wisdom found in religions and worldviews.
 - Appreciate and appraise the nature, significance and impact of different ways of life and ways of expressing meaning.
2. Express ideas and insights about the nature, significance and impact of religions and world views so that they can:
- Explain reasonably their ideas about how beliefs, practices and forms of expression influence individuals and communities.
 - Express with increasing discernment their personal reflections and critical responses to questions and teachings about identity, diversity, meaning and value, including ethical issues.
 - Appreciate and appraise varied dimensions of religion.
3. Gain and deploy the skills needed to engage seriously with religions and world views, so that they can:
- Find out about and investigate key concepts and questions
 - Enquire into what enables different individuals and communities to live together respectfully for the wellbeing of all.
 - Articulate beliefs, values and commitments clearly in order to explain why they may be important for themselves and others.

In each Key stage teachers should consider how their teaching contributes towards the principal aim of RE in the local area and how they help pupils achieve the threefold aim.

Guidelines for teachers

- The detailed and progressive RE curriculum map is used for planning within Key stage 1 and Key Stage 2.
- There is a whole school overview which maps the diverse religions, worldviews and concepts to be covered in each year group. These are planned to ensure that children's knowledge about beliefs and practices is progressive and builds in complexity as they move through the school. The religions covered throughout the primary school are: Hinduism, Christianity Judaism and Islam.
- In Key Stage 1 children predominantly learn about Christianity and Judaism. In Key Stage 2 children develop these further, as well as learning about Islam and Hinduism.
- Every year group, including the Foundation Stage, will plan for discrete teaching of the RE syllabus that we have adopted.

- In Key Stage 1 we build on the children's own experiences and feelings and give opportunities for thinking, talking, listening and responding respectfully. Emphasis should be placed on valuing and caring for other people in the community and for children to relate their understanding to a wider/global community. Pupils should ask questions and express their own views in relation to identity, belonging, differences and morals.
- In Key Stage 2 we will extend the opportunities offered in Key Stage One and encourage pupils to be curious and openly discuss their understandings, opinions, and attitudes about religion, diversity and ethical issues. Pupils should articulate their own beliefs, values and commitments in order to explain why they may be important in their own and other people's lives. Pupils should ask challenging questions and give reasons to support their ideas and views with increasing creativity and clarity.
- Trips and visits to places of worship/ religious places will be encouraged and visiting speakers will be encouraged to come into school.
- Staff will ensure that they deliver an exciting and creative RE curriculum throughout the school where the children are actively engaged in their learning.
- Staff will ensure that they provide a broad and balanced curriculum by meeting the needs of all the children and by setting suitable challenges and responding to each child's different needs.

The legal Position of RE

Our school curriculum for RE meets the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act. The ERA stipulates that RE is compulsory for all children, including those in the reception class who are less than five years old.

The ERA allows parents to withdraw their child from RE if they so wish, although this should only be done once the parents have given written notice to the school governors.

Our school RE curriculum is based on the Local Authority Agreed Syllabus for Leicestershire and meets all the requirements set out in that document.

APPENDIX A

Withdrawal from RE lessons

Dear Parent/Carer,

We respect your right to withdraw your son/daughter from religious education (RE) lessons, under section 71 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. This is documented in our school prospectus.

Please note that although this right allows you to withdraw your child from RE lessons, it does not apply to other areas of the curriculum. Therefore, please be aware that we are not required to excuse your child when questions or issues related to religion arise in other subject areas, such as History, PSHE or British Values.

If a pupil is withdrawn from RE, the school has a duty to supervise him/her but is not required to provide additional teaching, and the child will usually remain on school premises.

However, if you would like alternative arrangements to be made for your child to partake in RE of the kind you wish him/her to receive, please let us know. We may be able to provide this RE here in school or, if it is convenient, we may be able to send your child to another school where suitable RE is provided.

Alternatively, if the local authority agrees, you may be able to make outside arrangements for your child to access the kind of RE that you would like. Under these circumstances, we would allow him/her to be withdrawn from school for a reasonable period of time to attend this external RE.

If you do wish to withdraw your child from RE lessons, please complete and return the slip below to your child's class teacher. This withdrawal will remain while your child is at this school, unless you advise us otherwise. If you do review your decision, please let the school know in writing.

Yours sincerely,

Mr C Bowpitt

Executive Head teacher



.....

Withdrawal from RE lessons

I would like to withdraw my child from RE lessons under section 71 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

Child's name..... Class.....

Signed..... Name.....

Date.....

Version	Date	Comment
V2	Date created: 25/5/2022 Review date: May 2025	A Gordon