



Ashleworth C of E Primary School
RE Policy

“Respected and nurtured for uniqueness”

Legal Position of Religious Education in School

Religious Education is unique in the curriculum as it is neither a core or foundation subject. In the 1988 Education Act it states,

‘Religious Education has equal standing in relation to core subjects of the National Curriculum in that it is compulsory for all pupils’.

Ashleworth C of E Primary is a Church of England Voluntary Controlled School and therefore follows the Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2017 – 2022

The Church of England’s Statement of Entitlement

The Church of England’s *Statement of Entitlement* outlines the aims and expectations for Religious Education in Church of England Schools and guides this school’s approach to RE.

It begins by stating:

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 to educate for dignity and respect encouraging all to live well together.

Quoting from the Church of England’s Vision for Education: ‘Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good’, it continues

Such an approach is offered through a commitment to generous hospitality, being true to our underpinning faith, but with a deep respect for the integrity of other religious traditions (and worldviews) and for the religious freedom of each person.

Religious Education and our Christian Vision

Our school vision of “respected and nurtured for uniqueness” underpins and strengthens our RE curriculum alongside our core values of friendship, respect and trust.

Building on these themes, RE in this school contributes to the outworking of our vision using a high quality, sequential programme, which prepares pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in modern Britain.

Religious Education Intent

The intent of Religious Education at Ashleworth C of E School is to:

- Acquire a rich, deep knowledge and understanding of Christian belief and practice
- Engage and challenge children as they explore a range of religions and worldviews
- Apply our Christian vision and have respect for the faith, beliefs and values of others

School Approach to Religious Education

In line with all church schools, Ashleworth C of E Primary School, has a duty to provide accurate knowledge and understanding of religions and world views. A wide range of imaginative teaching methods and pupil groupings ensure effective RE sessions. We appreciate the positive impact that local faith communities can have on pupils’ experience in RE. Therefore our school encourages visits to places of worship, such as a local mosque and synagogue and welcomes visitors from different faith communities. Our school recognises it is vitally important that staff demonstrate respectful attitudes towards all faiths, modelling the attitudes and responses we would expect from our children.

As identified in the Statement of Entitlement, teaching and learning in RE in this school will provide:

- A challenging and robust curriculum based on an accurate theological framework.
- An assessment process which has rigour and demonstrates progression based on knowledge and understanding of core religious concepts.
- A curriculum that draws on the richness and diversity of religious experience worldwide.
- A culture that instils respect for different views and attitudes.

- The opportunity for pupils to deepen their understanding of the religion and world views as lived by believers.
- RE that makes a positive contribution to SMSC development

Organisation & Time Allocation

In accordance with the structure of Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus/South Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus we have agreed that:

In the Foundation Stage pupils will be introduced to a range of faith traditions and will be taught RE for 36 hours over the year.

At Key Stage 1 pupils study Christianity, Judaism and Islam. RE will be taught, as a discrete subject, for at least for 36 hours over the year.

At Key Stage 2 pupils study Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism and also consider non-religious worldviews. RE will be taught for at least for 45 hours, as a discrete subject, over the year.

Assessment/Recording & Reporting

The Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2017-2022 sets out a structure for recognising pupil achievements and each pupil can work progressively towards achieving the expected end of key stage learning outcomes as outlined in the syllabus.

Assessment is reviewed annually and school reports are sent home in the summer term of each year and the RE report is written with reference to assessment records as well as pupils' individual work.

Responsibilities for RE in School

The **subject leader** is responsible for overseeing the teaching and learning of religious education in the school. The role includes:

- Ensuring personal subject knowledge and expertise are kept up-to-date by participating in CPD for RE and share good practice
- Providing and sourcing in-service training for staff as necessary
- Ensuring the staff are familiar with the syllabus and supporting resources such as *Understanding Christianity*
- Supporting and clarifying approach to planning, delivery and assessment being clear about the subject's intent, implementation and impact
- Acquiring and organising appropriate resources and educational visits
- Monitoring the teaching and learning of RE through regular lesson observations, book looks, learning walks and pupil voice
- Contributing to the SIAMS self-evaluation process

The Head Teacher and Governors make sure:

- RE has a high profile within the curriculum
- All pupils make progress in achieving the learning outcomes of the RE curriculum
- The subject is well led and effectively managed and that standards and achievement in RE and the quality of the provision are subject to regular and effective self-evaluation
- Those teaching RE are suitably qualified and trained in the subject and have effective and regular opportunities for CPD
- Teachers newly appointed are provided with support offered by the diocese to enable them to become effective teachers of RE
- Clear information is provided for parents on the RE curriculum and the right to withdraw

The Right of Withdrawal from Religious Education

At Ashleworth C of E Primary School, we wish to be an inclusive community but recognise that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from religious education on the grounds of conscience.

However, the right of withdrawal does not extend to other areas of the curriculum when, as may happen on occasions, spontaneous questions on religious matters are raised by pupils or there are issues related to religion that arise in other subjects such as history and citizenship.

We would ask any parent considering this to contact the head teacher to discuss any concerns and anxieties about the policy, provision and practice of religious education at our school.

Managing the Right of Withdrawal

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 should be made aware of its learning objectives and what is covered in the RE curriculum and should be given the opportunity to discuss this, if they wish.

The use of the right to withdraw should be at the instigation of parents

Parents have the right to choose whether or not to withdraw their child from RE without influence from the school

If pupils are withdrawn from RE, schools have a duty to supervise them, though not to provide additional teaching or to incur extra cost.