



Stockton Wood Primary School

Religious Education Policy

**Subject Lead: C. McLaughlin
Date: September 2023
Review date: September 2025**

POLICY FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

BACKGROUND TO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT STOCKTON WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Religious Education (RE) is not a National Curriculum subject, but must be provided for all registered pupils in state-funded schools in England including those in the sixth form, unless withdrawn by their parents. It is a necessary part of a broad and balanced curriculum.

As RE is not nationally determined, a locally agreed syllabus of RE is prepared by a Local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) and adopted by a local authority. It is the Liverpool Agreed Syllabus of Religious Education, which we have used as the basis of our planning and delivery of RE.

Stockton Wood Primary School is committed to valuing the opinions, beliefs and practices of all and to showing sensitivity to minority groups.

PURPOSE OF STUDY AND AIMS

We believe that RE both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Our caring ethos and the value which we place on the development of the whole child; spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually, is reflected in the RE curriculum.

RE provokes challenging questions about the ultimate meaning and purpose of life, beliefs about God, the self and the nature of reality, issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human. It challenges pupils to reflect on, consider, analyse, interpret and evaluate issues of truth, belief, faith and ethics and to communicate their responses.

Purpose of Study: At Stockton Wood Primary School we aim to achieve high quality RE for all pupils. RE teaching provides pupils with a systematic knowledge and understanding about Christianity, principal religions and other world religions so they can engage in life in an increasingly diverse society. It is not about telling pupils what religious views they should have but rather assists them in gaining shared human understanding, developing personal identity and searching for meaning in the context of evaluating different viewpoints.

'RE explores big questions about life, in order to find out what people believe and what difference this makes to how they live, so that pupils can make sense of religion and worldviews, and reflect on their own ideas and ways of living.' (Liverpool RE Syllabus)

Aims:

All pupils:

- know, understand and explore the significance and impact of sacred texts, other sources of wisdom and ways of expressing meaning
- express ideas and insights about the nature of beliefs, values and practices and their impact upon the identity of individuals and communities
- recognise and explore the diversity which exists within and between religious traditions
- express with increasing discernment their personal reflections, critical responses and connections to faith and belief enquiring into philosophical, moral and ethical issues
- engage with the questions and answers offered by religions and worldviews concerning ultimate questions and human responsibility
- develop the skills required to engage with others in dialogue and to cooperate in society with respect and compassion.

CONTENT AND APPROACH

From Reception classes to Year 6 pupils:

- follow a coherent and systematic study of the principal religion of Christianity across each key stage and
- are introduced to the other five principal religions represented in Great Britain by the end of key stage 2

TIME ALLOCATION FOR RE

At EYFS RE is delivered flexibly according to the statutory requirements of the EYFS.

At Key Stage 1 pupils spend 50 minutes weekly and at Key Stage 2 pupils spend 1 hour weekly

These minimum time requirements exclude productions related to festivals, assembly or collective worship time.

WITHDRAWAL

At Stockton Wood Primary School, it is our practice to talk to parents to ensure that they understand the aims and values of the RE curriculum before honoring the right of withdrawal from RE by the Parents or Guardians of a pupil at a community, foundation or voluntary school. 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 to withdraw their child is expected to consult the Headteacher. Teachers may also withdraw from the teaching of RE.

ASSESSMENT, RECORDING AND REPORTING

Assessment in RE is seen in its broadest sense and is not limited to measurement and testing.

Through activities for example, discussion with pupils, group activities, marking and guiding their work, observing, displaying work, asking and answering questions, teachers are continually finding out about their pupils' achievements. At Stockton Wood Primary School, we appreciate that a vital aid to learning is for pupils to be actively involved in their own assessment.

PLANNING

At Stockton Wood Primary School planning is based upon the Liverpool Agreed Syllabus.

We use a combination of teaching RE through the creative curriculum, celebrating special days of the different world faiths and as a discrete subject.

Short term planning of individual lessons is by the individual class teacher and is also guided by the Liverpool Agreed Syllabus.

CROSS CURRICULAR APPROACHES

RE teaching and learning will be the means to many wider cross-curricular themes and dimensions. Children's skills in oracy and literacy will be enhanced. Problem-solving, decision-making and interpersonal skills will be developed.

RE presents many opportunities to explore multicultural and equal opportunities issues and for consideration of the environment. Moral questions will be raised and pupils will develop a sense of citizenship through many aspects of the explicit RE curriculum. Links will be made with people and communities within the locality.

The RE curriculum makes a significant contribution to pupils' S.E.A.L. programme too - development knowledge and awareness of Prevent, British values, Keeping Children Safe and the diversity, equality and

cohesion agendas, these are all essential contributing factors in providing outstanding RE teaching and learning for all children.

VISITS AND VISITORS

At Stockton Wood Primary School, we see the importance of widening the children's learning, celebrating diversity and promoting community cohesion through an understanding of all faiths. We do this through visits to a variety of places of worship and talking and listening to, people from a variety of faith groups who live in the wider community.

Visits to places of worship and visitors relate to the key questions from the Liverpool Agreed Syllabus, taking place in the following year groups

Year 1 - Visit Local Anglican Church

Year 2 - Visit from a practising Muslim

Visit to a synagogue

Year 3 - Visit from local Vicar

Year 4 - Visit from a practising Hindu

Year 5 - Visit to local Mosque

Year 6 - Visit from a practising Buddhist

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

Through a programme of evaluation of pupil outcomes, pupil books, planning, observations of teaching and learning, talking to children and staff, sharing of good practice we will identify and build on good practice to secure effective teaching and learning of RE.

Review Date: September 2025

C.McLaughlin RE Subject Leader