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Wrawby St Mary's CE Primary School



Religious Education Policy

Reviewed: May 2025

Review due: May 2028

Our Vision

At Wrawby St. Mary's Primary School, we strive for a full life in mind, body, heart and spirit to plan, prosper and give hope and a future to all. We believe in a journey of education enabling every child to feel love, challenge and excitement as they access skills to build future pioneers and leaders. Our school is a beacon of hope and a sign of the kingdom.

'Hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.' Romans 5:5

Religious Education (RE) Policy

The Purpose of RE at Wrawby St. Mary's Church of England Primary School

We teach RE as a core part of our school curriculum to help our pupils develop their religious literacy. We understand religious literacy to be:

"Our pupils' ability to hold balanced and well-informed conversations about religion and belief."

The Aims of RE at Wrawby St. Mary's Church of England Primary School

RE at Wrawby St. Mary's Church of England Primary School will be provided within legal requirements. These are as follows:

1. The basic curriculum must include provision for RE for all pupils registered on the school roll, including those in Reception who are less than five years old.
2. The content of RE must reflect the fact that the religious traditions of Great Britain are, in the main, Christian; it must also reflect the teaching and practices of the other principal religious traditions represented in Great Britain
3. The RE curriculum provided will be in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus for Lincolnshire.

Within this framework, our aims in RE are for pupils to:

- Acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and a range of world faiths and worldviews;
- Develop an understanding of the ways in which religious and non-religious beliefs, teachings, practices, values and traditions influence individuals, communities, societies and cultures, from the local to the global contexts;
- Develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues, with reference to the beliefs, teachings, practices, sources of authority and ways of living associated with the principal religions represented in the UK;
- Develop positive attitudes of mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs;
- Enhance their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development by:
 - Considering the 'big questions' raised by human experience and reflecting on how religious and other traditions respond to them;

- Responding to such questions with reference to religious beliefs, teachings, practices, values and traditions, relating them to their own understanding and experience;
- Reflecting on their own beliefs, values and experiences in light of their study of religious and other traditions.

The Context

Wrawby St. Mary's Church of England Primary School is a rural school for children in the age range 4 to 11. We work to the Lincolnshire Locally Agreed Syllabus for RE.

As a Church of England Primary School, we recognise the core place that RE occupies in relation to our Christian distinctiveness. The Diocese of Lincoln recognises the opportunities that RE offers for pupils to encounter a range of religions and worldviews.

We recognise the variety of religious and non-religious backgrounds that make up our school community and we respect this variety of backgrounds in the spirit of Christian welcome. We are glad to have good relationships with faith practitioners such as Reverend Julie and the Open The Book team and we value their contribution to our provision of engaging RE.

We actively seek to prepare our pupils for life in modern Britain. As such, we promote key British values, including respect for and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We challenge racism and all forms of prejudice, and we see RE as one curriculum area in which our pupils can encounter and critically reflect on a range of worldviews.

Time Allocation

It is the expectation of the Church of England Education Office that RE should constitute a minimum of 5% curriculum time and closer to 10%. This is in line with the recommendations made by the Statement of Entitlement (2019). We meet this expectation by providing discrete hour-long lessons each week.

RE forms part of the planning at EYFS; although there is no expected time allocation at this level, we expect that there will be connections made between RE and the Early Learning Goals. RE curriculum time does not include values lessons, wellbeing afternoons or collective worship.

Scheme of Work and Planning

Our RE Scheme of Work is based on the Lincolnshire locally agreed syllabus. This provides a spiral curriculum that ensures topics are revisited as children move through the school, with each encounter increasing in complexity and reinforcing previous learning. Teaching is enhanced through dedicated units from Understanding Christianity which enables children to develop their understanding of Biblical text and what this means to Christians today. Pupils have opportunities to examine and evaluate, make connections between key concepts and the wider world. Understanding Christianity encourages pupils to explore core Biblical texts and examine the impact for Christians and consider possible implications.

RE will be based around termly themes/cross-curricular units. The principal religions studied across both key stages will be Christianity, Islam and Hinduism. It is not expected that pupils will study all six major world religions in depth during their time at Wrawby St. Mary's Church of England Primary School, although they will have learning opportunities that allow them to encounter all of these faiths. It is expected that pupils will also encounter non-religious worldviews, such as Humanism, as part of their RE curriculum.

Teaching and Learning

Ofsted guidance encourages a range of teaching and learning styles in RE; our policy is to aim to ensure enquiry, art, drama, thinking skills, speaking and listening activities, multisensory activities, visits/visitors, ICT and other teaching strategies are used in order to enable each child to progress in RE according to their individual needs. Cross-curricular work is encouraged, in line with whole school policy on teaching and

learning. We identify RE as one of the core subjects through which our pupils can develop spiritually, morally, socially and culturally, but we do not limit the delivery of SMSC to this subject alone. We teach to the attainment targets of the Lincolnshire locally agreed syllabus for RE.

It is our intent that our RE curriculum engages, inspires and challenges learners, equips them with the knowledge and skills to ask and answer challenging questions, be curious and explore different religious beliefs, values and traditions - beliefs and practices that are followed in our multi-cultural society. Throughout all their RE learning, pupils utilise attitudes fundamental to RE, such as curiosity, perseverance, fairness, compassion, respect, open-mindedness and enquiry. These work alongside the Collective Worship and SMSC links implemented within the school as a whole.

As we aim to develop pioneers and leaders of the future - global citizens with the skills to flourish in our constantly changing world - we believe the purpose of RE is to enable pupils to become religiously literate or to further develop their existing religious literacy and become the gardeners and caretakers of the world.

Resources

We take advice from the Diocesan RE Adviser and other RE professionals on the best resources to support the delivery of high-quality RE, encouraging digital resources and the use of Lyfta Time, offering immersive and interactive story worlds from around the world to allow children to explore, experience and share perspectives of young people and how their faith may motivate them to become future pioneers and leaders.

Visits and Visitors

We consider that an essential element of the delivery of good quality RE is encounter with world faiths. We encourage our pupils to participate in visits to places of worship when the opportunity arises; these visits are arranged in line with the programme of study for RE and provide pupils with the chance to encounter world religions as living faiths in modern Britain. We also encourage faith leaders and other members of faith communities to visit Wrawby St. Mary's Church of England Primary School. These visits are arranged in accordance with the school's trips policy.

Assessment

The Lincolnshire locally agreed syllabus for RE provides descriptions of best practice in RE assessment and monitoring; we reflect these in our planning outcomes, ensuring that work is both matched to pupil need and enables progression. We provide a low-stakes quiz after each RE unit to assess each child's progress in RE. Each individual child will be assessed based on regular monitoring of work in RE using a variety of methods, including verbal feedback, evidence folders and written comments on individual pieces of work. The focus of this monitoring will be the two attainment targets: learning about religion and learning from religion.

Ensuring Progress

Whole school policy with regards to SEND and differentiation applies to RE. Teachers ensure that the learning activities employed in RE are adequately scaffolded to meet a variety of learning needs and are delivered in line with the Trust's Policy in supporting the First 20%.

RE and Inclusion

At Wrawby St. Mary's Church of England Primary School we teach RE to all pupils, whatever their ability and individual needs. RE forms part of our commitment to provide a broad and balanced education to all children. Through our RE teaching, we provide learning opportunities that enable all pupils to make good progress. We strive to meet the needs of all pupils and we take all reasonable steps to achieve this.

Inspection

Wrawby St. Mary's Church of England Primary School has a Voluntary Controlled foundation. As such, RE is not inspected as a separate element of the Section 48 SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspection. It is the responsibility of the RE Subject Leader to review and maintain evidence for the RE elements of this inspection, with appropriate support from the Headteacher, governors and Diocesan RE Adviser.

Monitoring and Review

We intend that this policy should operate for the next 3 years and then be fully reviewed by staff and governors. The RE Subject Leader will monitor the delivery of RE during each academic year to ensure that this policy is being appropriately implemented. Their role is to support and hold accountable all members of staff involved in the delivery of RE. To this end, they will ask each member of staff involved in the delivery of RE to provide a copy of their medium-term planning for RE, along with assessment evidence of pupil progress in RE during each academic year.

The RE Subject Leader must evaluate their own leadership of the subject during each academic year, ensuring that RE remains a high priority and is of a high quality.

Withdrawal from RE

We acknowledge the right of parents/guardians to withdraw their children from RE lessons and of teachers to withdraw from teaching the subject. We acknowledge that parents/guardians/teachers do not need to provide a reason why they wish to withdraw from the subject. Should a parent/guardian wish to withdraw their child from RE lessons or a teacher wish to refuse to teach RE, we require that written notice be sent to the school governors.

Should a parent/guardian request that their child be withdrawn from RE, we will endeavour to communicate clearly the place of RE within a broad and balanced curriculum to ensure that they are in possession of all the necessary information before confirming their decision. However, we will not attempt to persuade them to alter their decision. If a pupil is withdrawn from RE lessons, the school is required to provide supervision but should not incur any additional cost. Any queries regarding withdrawal from RE should be directed to the RE Subject Leader in the first instance, and thereafter to the Headteacher.

The UK Supreme Court ruling emphasizes that there is a need to acknowledge parent requests for withdrawal from RE and CW without imposing additional burdens on them. This ruling reflects the court's commitment to ensuring that parents have the right to make informed decisions regarding their children's education and care, while also considering the best interests of the child.

What is a Reserved Teacher?

Section 58 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 requires the appointment in Voluntary controlled (VC) schools, or an academy that was previously a VC school, of teachers who are able to provide religious education in accordance with the requirements of the Trust Deed of the school or in accordance with the tenets of the relevant religion or denomination.

Where the number of teachers at a foundation or voluntary-controlled school with a religious character is more than two, the teachers must include persons who are selected for their fitness and competence to teach religious education in accordance with the school's trust deed or with the tenets of the school's religion and are specifically appointed to do so. These teachers are called Reserved Teachers.

What is denominational religious education?

There is no definition in the Act of denominational religious education but in practice it means any religious education provided in accordance with the requirements of the Trust Deed of the school and that is not the

Locally Agreed Syllabus. Reserved Teachers may of course teach the Agreed Syllabus but that is not the purpose of their status.

Why is the provision of denominational religious education required?

Because parents have the right to request it. The norm in VC Church of England schools is that RE is provided according to the Locally Agreed Syllabus. Reserved Teachers are not needed for this. However, parents may request denominational religious education, and the governing body must make it available. Reserved Teachers are appointed in order that suitable persons are available should parents request this provision.

At Wrawby St. Mary's Church of England Primary School, our Reserved Teacher is Mr Brown (Headteacher).