

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

AIMS

We believe that religious education should:

- Develop the children's knowledge and understanding of, and their ability to respond to, issues within and between faiths to help them understand and appreciate different religions, beliefs, values and traditions (including ethical life stories), and understand the influence of these on individuals, societies, communities and cultures
- not try to undermine the personal faith position of any child or teacher
- be taught in a way that is interesting, challenging and relevant to pupils. It must also ensure that it provides opportunities for pupils to reach their potential as learners
- not be restricted to the mere study of religious facts and practices. It should also provide opportunities for involvement or experience of some of the creative and practical aspects of religious belief/culture
- provide opportunities for pupils to reflect on or explore their own beliefs
- help develop empathy and sensitivity towards others
- ensure pupils will encounter what religions have to say about:
 - * personal worth and value
 - * relationships with and care of others
 - * responsibility and care of the natural world
 - * ultimate questions
- provide opportunities for developing a sense of awe, wonder, joy and thoughtfulness, so reaching beyond the mundane and ordinary

CONTENT

During RE in key stages 1 and 2 children acquire and apply knowledge and understanding of

- Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism, Islam and other faiths
- How beliefs and cultures of different faiths contribute to communities, society in the UK and throughout the world

As well as learning about aspects of religions and cultures, children also develop their appreciation of different faith groups

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The school believes that the above principles provide the basis for pupils to:

- encounter a range of religious traditions including:-
 - * key ideas of God
 - * worship and celebration
 - * the way faith influences ways of life

* sacred texts and the leaders who have authority within the faith

- encourage pupils to explore forms of religious expression and to appreciate other views and ways of life
- know the basic outline of the life of Jesus and how it relates to the main Christian festivals

MEETING LEGAL DEMANDS

RE in Hinstock Primary School is taught in accordance with the requirements of the Shropshire Agreed Syllabus, reflecting the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are, in the main, Christian, whilst taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain.

We also recognise and fully comply with the conscience clause, "The right of parents to withdraw their child from RE and of teachers to decline from participating in RE remains unchanged".

OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED

These are broad and will vary according to individual teachers and topics covered in Long Term planners, but the following strategies may be used most frequently.

- Discussion and sharing of thoughts and experiences, with opportunities to reflect.
- Creative work e.g. making artefacts, music, dance, art
- Drama - using situations such as celebrations, presenting a moral dilemma.
- Use of video clips, ICT and internet.
- Resource material.
- Use of collaborative work e.g. class book, group activity.
- Use of secular and sacred stories as a starting point.
- Open-ended questions of belief for exploration and reflection.
- Use of mindfulness techniques, opportunities for reflections
- Visitors to the school.
- Visits

POLICY TO PRACTICE

Organisation

Time allocation for RE is approximately one hour per week. Our RE themes have been linked with termly topics as far as possible. See long term and medium term planning. When assessing RE skills progression sheets inform teachers as to progress and how children are achieving in relation to KS1, LKS2 and UKS2 objectives and expectations. The Shropshire LG material: Assessment in RE Part 2, The Framework, gives guidance on making judgements about each child in RE.

RE and Collective Worship

Our themes for collective worship are taken from the Shropshire Agreed Syllabus 2019. They are planned over half termly periods, with monthly themes, values and links to SEAL topics. These themes include stories from different faiths and cultures and are used as a vehicle for pupils to investigate religious practices such as prayer, rituals and reflection.

Resources

In school we have RE boxes for main religions with resources collected over time. These resources reflect a range of religious traditions. We make use of friends in the community by asking them to bring back religious artefacts from abroad. We also have access to Shropshire Library Service at gold level and therefore artefacts boxes and information books about different faiths.

The children are taught that any artefacts used in school are handled with respect and reverence.

When visitors are invited to talk to the children guidance is clearly given as to their role in line with Shropshire Visitor Code of Conduct, the age and ability of the children and what to include in their talk. The children are prepared for the visitor thus enabling them to get maximum benefit. We have regular visits from our local vicar, who is informed in advance of our themes for collective worship. Other visitors have included NSPCC, Dog's Trust, Save the Children, Christian Aid – toilet twinning, Harvest Help and religious groups.

Equality of Opportunity and Staff Development

All staff are involved in the writing of the RE schemes of work using LTPs and this will ensure the delivery of the agreed syllabus. The coverage of religious education in our planning is broad and balanced. Opportunities are available to staff to attend appropriate courses.

Equal opportunities in RE means ensuring an entitlement for all children irrespective of belief, ethnicity, gender or disability. We make sure that SEN children have full access to the experiences being provided by RE - the school realises that, although a child may have limitations in one area of the curriculum, they may still have the capacity to respond to the spiritual and religious dimension of life.

RE and PSHE & CITIZENSHIP

RE, PSHE, RSE and SEAL share the emphasis of not just teaching facts but encouraging young people to reflect on their own beliefs and those of other people and express their own opinions of the different views held by others. We provide opportunity for **reflection** and **mindfulness** both in collective worship, RE, and listening to music or drama.

RE and Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

We encourage the children to work and play together in harmony both in school and in the wider community. This is achieved by the children taking part in:

- musical, sporting and religious activities inter-school and intra-school
- activities within the village e.g. harvest celebration
entertaining the elderly, caring for the environment
- the wider world, by supporting e.g. Water Aid, Cancer Research, Toilet Twinning, Harvest Support, Food Bank, Save the Children, Children in Need, Comic Relief, World Book Day

As a school we encourage sensitivity to each other's needs, friendliness, courtesy and tolerance towards others, and an appreciation and understanding of religions, cultural and moral values.

Implementation Plan

Useful link: <https://www.shropshirelg.net/curriculum-subjects/re/re-in-primary-schools/>

Continue to purchase RE resources

Link governor for behaviour, attitudes and personal development to meet with subject leaders.

Coordinator to have overview of long & medium term planning and delivery of RE curriculum

Review Date Spring 2022

Rachael Williams Spring 2020

Resources

Books:-

The Beginner's Bible
The Children's Bible
The Story of Islam
The Story of The Jews
The Story of Christianity

Life and Faith	-Islam
	-Jesus
	-Judaism
	-Life and Death
	-Christianity
	-Sacred Books
	-Buddhism

Exploring Religion	-Worship
	-Writings
	-Signs and symbols
	-People
	-Buildings

Divali
Sam's Passover
Granada Guides -Religion
Eyewitness Guides -Religion
Star of Wonder

A range of teacher resources in the Staffroom.