

 <b>Alfred Street Junior School</b>	Page 1 of 5
<b>RE Policy</b>	Issued: June 2019
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<b>APPROVAL BY</b>	<b>FULL GOVERNING BODY</b>

# RE Policy

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## 1. Rationale

The nature of Religious Education (RE) is such that coverage of the subjects relates to the whole life of the school. We feel that a positive attitude to RE can be fostered through a happy and caring environment where each pupil is valued as an individual.

The study of RE allows pupils to develop an understanding of human experience, a respect for those with a different viewpoint and a caring attitude to the environment and living things. RE, in particular, provides an opportunity to promote the social, moral, spiritual and cultural development of our pupils.

## 2. The Aim of Religious Education

‘The aim of Religious Education in the schools of Northamptonshire is to contribute educationally to the development of pupils as individuals and members of society by fostering a reflective approach to life in the context of a growing understanding of the experiences, attitudes, beliefs and religious practices of humanity.’

To achieve this aim, the Agreed Syllabus has two broad attainment targets:

**(AT1) Learning about religion: Pupils should acquire knowledge about and understanding of religions and beliefs**

(AT2) Learning from religion: Pupils should be enabled to reflect on and respond to their study of religions and beliefs.

### 3. Curriculum time for RE

Curriculum time for RE is distinct from the time schools may spend on collective worship or school assembly. The minimum requirements for religions and beliefs to be studied are:

**KS 2:** Christianity + Hinduism + Islam + Judaism

Our Yearly Programme of Units, Inc.: Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism, Humanism and Sikhism, as well as units focusing on specific aspects of multi-religions.

	Autumn		Spring		Summer	
<b>Year 3</b>	Jesus' Role in Christianity (the teacher, the healer, the preacher etc.)	Stories of Jesus. Christmas Topic - The Nativity Story and Symbols.	Judaism - Introduction to religion. Principles, beliefs, way of life, celebrations and traditions. Easter Topic - The Easter Story and Symbols.	The Bible - The Old Testament. A study of Joseph the Dreamer.	Buddhism - Introduction to religion. Principles, beliefs, way of life, celebrations and traditions.	Stories of Saints - St. Patrick, St. George and St. Francis.
<b>Year 4</b>	Islam - Introduction to religion. Principles, beliefs, way of life, celebrations and traditions.	Islam - Introduction to religion. Principles, beliefs, way of life, celebrations and traditions. Christmas Topic - Advent.	Christianity in Action - A study of well-known Christian Activists (Mother Teresa / Salvation Army - William Booth / Elizabeth Fry). Easter Topic - The Study of Lent - Selfless Acts and Sacrifice.	A study of a Christian Charity - Christian Aid Week and Signpost International (child sponsorship).	Creation Stories. - Christian, Hindu, Judaism, Humanism, and Cultural (Ghana, Nigeria, China and Aboriginal). Debate on own beliefs.	Religious Celebrations - Baptism, Marriage, Funerals. Compare different traditions across the main religions.
<b>Year 5</b>	Hinduism - Introduction to religion. Principles, beliefs, way of life, celebrations and traditions. (In-School Diwali Day - Visitor)	Hinduism - Introduction to religion. Principles, beliefs, way of life, celebrations and traditions. (In-School Hindu Worship - Puja Tray) Christmas Topic - Christmas Festivals - Study of different European Traditions (Link to Y5 C.C. Topic).	Stories of Faith - A study of Moses. (Journey, Feelings, Commandments).	Stories of Faith - Study a range of other Faith Stories from across the main religions. Easter Topic - Events of Holy Week.	Humanism - Introduction to concept. Principles, beliefs, way of life, celebrations and traditions.	Christianity in Art - Give an opinion on Christian-themed art. Produce own Christian Artwork.

<b>Year 6</b>	<p>Christian Worship - Introduction into Christian Worship.</p>	<p>Christian Worship - The concept of what worship is within the Christian Faith (Visit to St. Peters).</p> <p>Christmas Topic - Character Study of Mary, a shepherd and a wise-man. Christmas story retold from their perspective.</p>	<p>Sikhism - Introduction to religion. Principles, beliefs, way of life, celebrations and traditions.</p>	<p>Sikhism - Introduction to religion. Principles, beliefs, way of life, celebrations and traditions. (In-School Gurdwara - Visitor).</p> <p>Easter Topic - Character Study of Mary Magdalene, Peter and Thomas.</p>	<p>Religion in our Community - Study the religions represented within our community, and the world. Debate on the 'fors' and 'againsts' of singular or plural communities</p>	<p>Words of Wisdom - Study Christian, Islam and Sikh values on love, the environment and money.</p>
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## 4. Legal Requirements

We follow the RE Agreed Syllabus for Northamptonshire. This Agreed Syllabus is the legal basis for RE in Northampton. The Agreed Syllabus secures an entitlement to learning in Religious Education for all pupils in the school including pupils in the school.

The law states that RE shall have regard to '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.' (Education Act 1996). This Agreed Syllabus requires schools to contribute to enabling pupils in Northampton to develop an overall understanding of the six principal religions in Great Britain (Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism). Humanism is now also on the yearly overview.

Parents have a right to withdraw a child from receiving RE and the school must comply with the request for withdrawal. Reasons do not have to be stated and the school continues to be responsible for the supervision of any child withdrawn from RE lessons by his/her parents.

No teacher can be required to teach RE if he/she does not wish to do so.

## 5. Intended Outcomes

We believe that, through Religious Education, we promote the following outcomes in our children, in the most effective way that we can:

- by ensuring pupils develop a knowledge base and a sound understanding of the beliefs of World Religions including Christianity through a variety of experiences such as literature and film, by receiving guest speakers/visitors into the school, by visiting venues such as the local church, Gurdwara and Mandir and meeting the people who worship there;
- by helping pupils to become well informed members of their school, community and society, who participate with confidence, encouraging them to develop respect and understanding for the beliefs of others and vice versa through questioning and discussion.

The programme of learning that we provide will enable pupils to:

- Identify, name, describe and give accounts, of each religion in order to build a coherent picture.
- Explain the meanings of religious language, stories and symbolism.
- Explain similarities and differences between and within, religions.
- Give an informed and considered response to religious and moral issues.
- Reflect on what might be learnt from religions in the light of one's own beliefs and experience.
- Identify and respond to questions of meaning within religions.

## **6. Current Resources**

Religious artefacts, reference books and posters are kept in the RE resource cupboard at the top of the stairs in the Y5 cloakroom. The school library contains a collection of Religious Education books, covering different topics, and includes the major world faiths as well as Christianity. We also borrow RE topic boxes from the Learning Resource Centre.

### **6.1. Current Practice**

Key Stage 2 pupils receive a minimum of 45 hours directed time per year that is 1 hour and 15 mins per week. Religious Education is taught as a separately timetabled subject, however, there are many cross-curricular opportunities, particularly in English, History, Art, Music and P.S.H.E.

- Pupils experience a variety of teaching methods best suited to their abilities and interests, including:
  - Presentations by the teacher
  - Story telling
  - Discussion and debate
  - Individual & group investigations
  - Role play and drama
  - Use of music and songs
  - Use of posters, artefacts and IT

Our Scheme of work uses the programmes of study suggested by the Northamptonshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education which guides the planning, teaching and assessment of pupils' work. These programmes of study are reflected in yearly and half-termly planning grids.

## **7. Assessment, Recording and Reporting**

Religious Education is assessed through teacher assessment according to the levels of Attainment set out for each study unit in the Northamptonshire Agreed Syllabus for RE.

Reporting to parents is through open evenings and annually through End of Year Reports.

## **8. Pupils with Special Needs**

These pupils have full access to the Religious Education Syllabus. Poor literacy skills can be overcome by use of extra adult support, oral rather than written work and the use of drawing instead of writing. Every effort is taken to enable all children with physical and behavioural special needs are able to participate in RE lessons and trips.

## **9. Safeguarding**

Safeguarding our children is our priority. All concerns must be reported to our Designated Safeguarding leads:

ASJS: Mrs K O'Connor, Mr C Butler, Mrs S Smith, Mrs W Watts, Mrs A Love