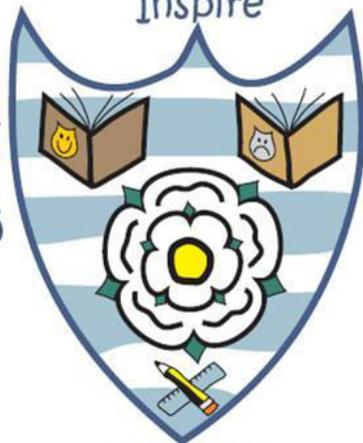


Birkwood Primary

Inspire

Cherish



Achieve

Together

School

**RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION
AND
COLLECTIVE
WORSHIP
POLICY**

UPDATED FEBRUARY 2022

Introduction

The National Curriculum for England, 2014 states that,

“All state schools ... must teach religious education to pupils at every key stage”. Religious Education is a curriculum subject which focuses on beliefs and practices of the major world religions of Christianity, Judaism, Islam and Hinduism along with Sikhism and Buddhism. It enables our pupils to explore the meaning of life, human nature and destiny, about what is right and wrong, about traditions and worship and festivals and celebrations. Religious Education contributes to the rich, broad and balanced curriculum in our school.”

Our School Vision

Our school ethos is underpinned by our aim to **inspire** our children by providing a curriculum that is creative, that responds and enables children to lead their own learning and that equips them with the skills required for the 21st Century. We aim to **cherish** our children by trying to look after and respect each other at all times. We aim to provide a caring environment, where all are inspired and empowered to **achieve** their true potential as unique and valued individuals. We aim for our children to achieve the best that they can, by challenging and supporting them. We are creative and flexible in providing a positive approach to learning in a safe, stable and exciting environment that will nurture each child's individual needs. Our school is welcoming, caring and safe; a family community working in harmony.

The Aims of our Religious Education

RE in our school will be provided in line with the legal requirements. These are that:

- the basic curriculum will include provision for religious education for all pupils on the school roll
- the content of RE shall reflect the fact that religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, while taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religious traditions represented in Great Britain
- the RE which is provided shall be in accordance with the Barnsley Local Agreed Syllabus (LAS)

Framework of the law and the Agreed Syllabus

We endeavour:

- to enable each child to explore our shared human experience and the questions of meaning and purpose which arise from our experiences
- to enable pupils to know about and understand the beliefs and practices of some of the religions of the world, particularly those represented in Barnsley and in Great Britain
- Understand that Christianity has a particular place, thus is taught in each year of the primary phase:
 - to promote respect, sensitivity and cultural awareness by teaching about the religions represented in the region and the country
 - to affirm each child in his / her own family tradition, religious or secular
 - to provide children with opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
 - to develop the ability of pupils to think about, and develop for themselves, beliefs and values by which they can live through studying concepts like celebration, the sacred, authority, religious belief and lifestyle, and through exploring the fundamental questions of life

Our curriculum intentions

Religious Education is invaluable in an ever-changing world, therefore the intent of our RE curriculum at Birkwood Primary School is to deliver a curriculum which promotes understanding of world religions and enables pupils to combat prejudice and to promote respect, sensitivity and cultural awareness.

At Birkwood Primary School, we believe that Religious Education has a significant role in the development of pupils' spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development. Therefore, it is our aim to

engage, inspire, challenge, and encourage pupils. This will equip pupils with the knowledge and skills to answer challenging questions, explore different religious beliefs, values and traditions and develop a more rigorous understanding of the numerous religious traditions, beliefs and practices that are followed in our multi-cultural society.

The curriculum is delivered in line with the legal requirements and guidance from the Barnsley Local Agreed Syllabus (LAS), 2020. The planned programme of study builds on previous learning. Through their R.E. learning, pupils can make links between their own lives and those of others in their community and in the wider world. They will develop an understanding of other people's cultures and ways of life, which they are then able to communicate to the wider community. R.E offers our pupils the means by which to understand how other people choose to live and to understand why they choose to live in that way.

It makes links to similarities and identifies differences of all religious beliefs so that pupils know more, remember more and understand more but is planned in such a way that it is accessible to all and maximises the outcomes for every child; allowing them to prepare for adult life.

The content of RE shall reflect the fact that religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, whilst taking into account the teaching and practices of the other principle religious traditions represented in Great Britain.

In Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), RE is not taught as a discrete curriculum area however, early learning goals lead into RE attainment targets. Equally, we aim to provide opportunities for children to experience the world of religion, identifying special places, objects, books and stories. To support this, we have carefully planned out (Whole school) assemblies that explore different religious festivals across all 6 of the religions studied.

In KS1 and KS2 there is a systematic study of Christianity and the other 5 principal religions in the UK (Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism)".

Whole School	Christianity
Year 1	Islam
Year 2	Judaism
Year 3	Islam
Year 4	Hinduism
Year 5	Buddhism
Year 6	Sikhism

Each programme of study is split into 6 questions:

- 1. Why are these words special?*
- 2. Why are some places special?*
- 3. How can faith contribute to community cohesion?*
- 4. Why are sometimes special?*
- 5. What can be learnt from the lives of significant people of faith*
- 6. How do I and others feel about life and the universe around us?*

These questions are designed to guide and shape pupils' learning in RE across the years of schooling. Pupils begin to handle the key questions very simply, moving on to learn about and respond to religious objects and ideas, to describe for themselves, to analyse information, and increasingly to develop the ability to draw thoughtful and balanced conclusions.

Time Allocation

'The Dearing Review of the Curriculum' (1996) and the Barnsley SACRE recommends a minimum of 36 hours per year for RE at Key Stage One, and 45 hours per year at Key Stage Two, a recommendation endorsed by the Barnsley LAS, 2020.

At Birkwood Primary School, we teach RE as 6 blocks over the 6 half terms of the academic year, 2 blocks on Christianity and 4 blocks on the specified religion for the year group. Time allocated is spread over the half terms to ensure that the recommended time is met.

Experiences and enrichment opportunities

- Handling artefacts
- Exploring sacred texts
- Song and imaginative play
- Responding to art, music and dance
- Visits from local religious communities
- Visits to places of worship
- Virtual tours of places of worship
- Whole school events
- Participating in quiet reflection
- Participating in assemblies
- Using ICT to explore world religions
- Comparing religion through discussion
- P4C- Philosophical ideas and the questions they pose.

Ensuring Disability Equality

We are committed to ensuring equality of education and opportunity for all children. We follow the necessary regulations to ensure that we take the experiences and needs of all children into account when planning for teaching, learning and pastoral support. We do not take educational inclusion and equality for granted. We constantly identify those children who may be missing out, difficult to engage, or feeling in some way to be apart from what we seek to provide. We aim to develop a culture of inclusion and diversity in which pupils with disabilities are able to participate fully in school life and achieve their learning potential. We will make reasonable adjustments to ensure that barriers to learning are removed and the school environment and the RE curriculum are as accessible as possible. For full details of the school's graduated response see SEND policy.

Assessment

We report on pupils' progress and attainment in RE to parents/carers, as required by law. The LAS provides descriptions of levels of attainment. Continuous assessment will be used to inform future planning.

Monitoring and evaluation

The RE leader monitors delivery of the scheme through observation and discussion with teaching staff, as well as discussions with children and scrutiny of their written work to ensure consistent and coherent curriculum provision. Evaluation of the scheme's effectiveness is conducted on the basis of:

- Pupil and teacher evaluation of the content and learning processes
- Staff meetings to review and share experience
- Monitoring of assessment to ensure progression throughout the school.

Withdrawal

We note the rights of parents to withdraw their children from RE and of teachers to withdraw from teaching the subject. We aim to provide an open curriculum, which can be taught to all pupils, by all staff. Please refer any questions from parents about withdrawal, to the subject leader (Mr Markham) or Head teacher (Mr Wood). Support on issues of withdrawal is available from Barnsley SACRE.

Collective Worship

Statutory Duty of School

It is a legal requirement that all registered school aged children take part in an act of collective worship every day (apart from those who have been withdrawn from this by their parents). These acts of worship must be 'wholly or mainly of broad Christian character'. They must also be 'appropriate, having regards to the ages, aptitude and family backgrounds of the pupils' (Education Reform Act 1988).

"All schools must provide religious education and daily acts of collective worship as set out in the legislation for Local Authority-maintained schools and funding agreements for academies and free schools." ('RE and collective worship in academies and free schools.' 18 December 2012). The curriculum will include provision for religious education for all pupils on the school roll. The content of RE shall reflect the fact that religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, while taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religious traditions represented in Great Britain. The RE which is provided shall be in accordance with the Barnsley Local Agreed Syllabus (LAS) 2020.

Background to collective worship at our school

Families who send their children to this school are in the main 'nominally' Christian, and there are some practising Christian families. In addition, there are children who are from other religions other than Christianity and some non-religious backgrounds. To be an inclusive school we have to recognise that in asking our children to worship, we have to consider, and be sensitive to, the home background of our children. The faith background of both the staff and each child's family is respected at all times. We work to the Barnsley LAS 2020.

We recognise the variety of religious and non-religious backgrounds from which our pupils come. We welcome the diversity, and we intend to be sensitive to the home background of each child. We are glad to have the active support of members of local faith communities in RE and in general.

We recognise the inter-relationship between pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, and the leading role which the RE curriculum plays in some of these areas.

Right to withdraw

Parents have the right to withdraw, wholly or partly, their child from collective worship, they are not obliged to give their reasons. Any parent wishing to exercise this right should consult the Headteacher. A register is kept by the Head teacher of all the children withdrawn from collective worship. Teachers may also withdraw from collective worship if they wish.

Aims and purpose

We believe that collective worship supports and strengthens every aspect of school life. Our caring ethos and the value we place on the development of the whole child: spiritually, morally, socially, culturally, and intellectually is reflected in our worship.

Through collective worship we aim:

- to provide an opportunity for children to worship God
- to provide an opportunity for children to consider the purpose and meaning of life
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs
- to encourage participation and response
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit
- to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes
- to provide an opportunity for calm reflection

