

Kingsley Primary School



Religious Education (R.E.) Policy

Reviewed : March 2024
Next review: March 2025

Rationale

Religious Education (RE) at Kingsley Primary School is taught in agreement with the Hartlepool Agreed Syllabus 2020, which is reviewed by the Local Authority every five years.

At Kingsley, we provide a broad and balanced curriculum which encompasses spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. It plays a positive role in celebrating and understanding cultural and religious diversity across the world.

The Agreed Syllabus must:

- Reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, while taking account of the teachings and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain.
- Be non- denominational and must not be designed to convert pupils or to urge a particular religion or religious belief on pupils.

Aims and Objectives

The purpose of RE is to educate about religion. It provokes questions about the meaning and purpose of life, beliefs about God, issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human. It develops understanding and tolerance towards people who may hold different or opposing beliefs.

Through it, pupils have the opportunity to:

- develop deepening knowledge and understanding about a range of religious and non-religious worldviews so that they can:
 - describe and explain beliefs and theological concepts;
 - describe and explain some sources of authority and teachings within and across religious and non-religious traditions;
 - describe and explain ways in which beliefs are expressed;
 - know and understand the significance and impact of beliefs and practices on individuals, communities and societies;
 - connect these together into a coherent framework of beliefs and practices.
- gain and deploy deepening understanding of specialist vocabulary and terms.
- know and understand about religious diversity within the region, as well as nationally and globally.
- know and understand how religion can be defined and what is meant by the term 'religious and non-religious world views' and with increasing clarity know that these worldviews are complex, diverse and plural.

- gain and deploy skills that enable critical thinking and enquiry in relation to the material they study.
- reflect on their own thoughts, feelings, experiences, ideas, values and beliefs with increasing discernment.

Planning

To ensure that legal requirements are met and that RE is broad and balanced and that there is some uniformity across Hartlepool schools enabling continuity and progression, the Agreed Syllabus requires the following:

- In EYFS, RE will be taught as an integral part of their personal, social and emotional learning. Pupils will encounter religions, have time to reflect on their feelings and teachers will encourage imaginative play and curiosity. They will use the Hartlepool Agreed Syllabus medium term planning as a guide where necessary.
- In KS1 Christianity and Hinduism are core religions. One religion is supplementary and at Kingsley this will be Judaism. Aspects of other religions/ religious communities with a local presence and a secular world view will be taught as appropriate to the programme of study.
- In KS2 Christianity, Islam and Sikhism are the core religions. Hinduism, Buddhism and Judaism will be supplementary religions. Aspects of other religions/ religious communities with a local presence and a secular world view will be taught as appropriate to the programme of study

In line with the Agreed Syllabus 2020, we will include thematic and diversity units across Key Stages 1 and 2, where knowledge and understanding from all taught religions to that point can be drawn from and included.

Organisation

RE may be taught weekly, although occasionally, it may be more appropriate to teach R.E in a concentrated block of time. So that essential religious meaning is not lost, RE will be planned as explicit R.E units. However, links will be made with other subjects when appropriate.

Pupils will experience a wide variety of work, approaches and experiences when studying RE. There will be discussion, description and reflection, visits and visiting speakers. ICT and Art will be used to explore and present religious meaning in different manners.

Units of work for each Key Stage will be developed by all staff within the team and will be monitored by the RE Co-ordinator to ensure continuity, progression and a balanced programme for each year group.

Time Allocation

RE should be taught continuously throughout the Key Stages, with sufficient time allocation of no less than 5% at each Key Stage.

KS1: 36 hours per academic year

KS2: 45 hours per academic year

These time allocations do not include Collective Worship as this is not part of RE.

Collective Worship

Collective Worship is a time when groups within the school or key stages meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. It takes place in either the main hall or classroom. It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Collective Worship in school is collective and inclusive, enabling all to take part. (See our Collective Worship Policy)

Assessment

Assessment is carried out during each lesson and feedback given in line with our Feedback Policy. An individual assessment is made at the end of each unit of work, based on the Hartlepool Agreed Syllabus (2020), where children are given Emerging (E), Developing (D) or Secure (S). This forms part of the summative assessment for the year.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Procedures for monitoring and self- evaluation of RE will take the form of scrutiny of planning, pupil work and regular meetings with colleagues. Pupil Voice and questionnaires will also be used to help understand children's perceptions of RE.

RE Resources

RE resources should be an exciting stimulus to discussion and to fostering a sense of enquiry, respect and understanding.

The core religions studied at Kingsley Primary School will be Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Sikhism and Judaism. Labelled boxes of books and artefacts from each religion will continue to be developed and stored in the resource cupboard.

Resources are audited and updated by the RE Co-ordinator on a regular basis.

Legal Requirements

The 1988 Education Reform Act, the Education Act 1996 and School Standards and Framework Act 1998 require that Religious Education must be taught to all registered pupils in maintained schools. The requirement does not apply to nursery children, but includes reception children.

Right to Withdraw Pupils

The 1998 Education Act confirms the right of withdrawal for both parents and teachers. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of RE lessons without stating the reasons for seeking withdrawal. Children who are withdrawn will complete different set work. Parents must arrange a meeting with the headteacher if they wish to withdraw their child. This will be reviewed on an annual basis.

SEND

At Kingsley Primary School, RE should be inclusive for any child with special needs or disability. Work and support should be differentiated to allow these pupils to access the subject in the same manner as their peers. Teachers will use the Hartlepool Agreed Syllabus (2020) and plan work at the appropriate year groups medium term planning for any SEND children within classrooms or in our KS1 and KS2 base.

The Role of the Subject leader

The main responsibilities are to:

- Keep up to date with local and national developments in RE and resources to keep staff informed.
- To support staff when planning and scrutinise planning in relation to the Agreed Syllabus
- Monitor the provision of R.E across the school and evaluate standards achieved.
- Ensure CPD for staff is delivered where required.
- Liaise with partner secondary school to ensure continuity and progression.
- Prepare the RE Policy and Action Plan, in consultation with the Headteacher and leadership team and review regularly.
- Allocate the budget for RE and audit resources.
- Liaise with link governor.

RE Co-ordinator March 2024

To be reviewed: March 2025