

RE Policy for New Hinksey C.E. (VC) Primary School

Introduction

In New Hinksey CE Primary School, RE plays an important role in expressing the Christian vision of the school. RE reflects the ethos and values that are held and promotes understanding of people of all faiths and none. RE has the same status as all other subjects and contributes to the overall educational, moral and intellectual development of our pupils regardless of their background or family traditions.

The Legal Position

All maintained schools in England must provide a basic curriculum (RE, sex education and the National Curriculum). This includes provision for RE for all registered pupils at the school except for those withdrawn by their parents (see paragraph below). As a voluntary controlled school, RE is therefore taught in accordance with the Locally Agreed Syllabus while also reflecting the requirements of the Statement of Entitlement for Religious Education published by the Education Office of the Church of England in February 2019. The statutory section 48 (SIAMS) inspection will evaluate the way that RE contributes to the Christian character of the school and the teaching of RE will reflect this requirement.

Purpose and Aims of RE

The purpose of RE is to teach children about the religious and non-religious world-views that they will encounter in modern Britain and enable them to engage in meaningful and considered dialogue with those of all faiths and none. This is religious literacy.

Therefore, the aims of RE in our school are:

- To know about and understand Christianity as a diverse global living faith through the exploration of core beliefs using an approach that critically engages with biblical text.
- To gain knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews appreciating diversity, continuity and change within the religions and worldviews being studied.
- To engage with challenging questions of meaning and purpose raised by human existence and experience.
- To recognise the concept of religion and its continuing influence on Britain's cultural heritage and in the lives of individuals and societies in different times, cultures and places.
- To explore their own religious, spiritual and philosophical ways of living, believing and thinking.

Curriculum and Time Allocation

The RE curriculum at New Hinksey C.E. Primary School, follows the Locally Agreed Syllabus. Christianity is taught in every year group, with key concepts revisited on a spiral curriculum. **At least 50% of RE teaching time is devoted to Christianity.** Other religions are covered according to the syllabus; eg Judaism in KS1, Hinduism & Sikhism/Islam in KS2. RE is taught in a variety of ways through dedicated lessons/blocks/cross-curricular topic activities as appropriate to the age of the pupils., the type of learning and at the discretion of the class teacher. The time dedicated to RE is *separate* from the time given to Collective Worship.

Teaching, Learning and Assessment

RE is taught using an enquiry-based approach (often based around big questions) that is challenging and robust. Learning will be organised to encourage the development of attitudes such as self-awareness, respect for all, open-mindedness, appreciation and wonder, as well as providing opportunities to engage appropriately with Fundamental British Values. All faiths are treated respectfully, and opportunities will be made to engage in age-appropriate, meaningful discussion. Where possible pupils will encounter believers and visit places of worship.

A variety of resources, styles, and techniques will be used as appropriate to enable all children to make progress in RE regardless of their starting points, ability or background and in accordance with the Valuing All God's Children document.

Assessment procedures will be in accordance with other assessment and feedback procedures in the school. Students will engage in a variety of activities which will also enable teachers to assess what they have learnt. Information about pupils' experiences and judgements about their attainment and progress will be used to inform planning and report to parents.

Resources

The school endeavours to keep RE resources up-to-date and to inform staff when new resources are purchased or made available electronically. Resources will include source materials (eg Bibles, visitors, artefacts) where appropriate and be treated with respect by all staff.

The Right of Withdrawal

Pupils may be withdrawn from RE or part of RE by a parent or guardian (or withdrawing themselves if they are aged 18 or over) in accordance with Schedule 19 to the School Standards and Framework Act 1998; teachers can exercise their right to withdraw from teaching the subject. However, we hope that all parents and teachers will feel comfortable with the type of religious education being taught at this school. **Parents who wish to withdraw their children must provide written notification to this effect and provide suitable activities for their children. The school will keep pupils safe but will not provide any work or reading material for pupils who have been withdrawn.**

Policy Review

This policy should be reviewed regularly in line with schools' procedures. An annual review is recommended if possible, but review must be done within a 3-year period in line with the school's procedure.

Date April 2023

Policy to be reviewed April 2026
