



Date Approved by Governing Body	September 2024
Next Review Date by Governing	September 2027

'Let your light shine!'



Make your light shine, so others will see the good you do and will praise your Father in heaven.
Matthew 5:16

Waterhouses CE Primary Academy and Nursery

Religious Education Policy

'Religious education in a Church school should enable every child to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10). It will help educate for dignity and respect encouraging all to live well together'

The Church of England Statement of Entitlement 2019

Intent

Our curriculum considers the school's unique Christian distinctiveness and is designed to meet the needs of every pupil, encouraging them to 'Let their light shine!'.

Make your light shine, so others will see the good you do and will praise your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:16

At Waterhouses CE Primary Academy and Nursery the aim of Religious Education is to help children to acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other principal religions represented in Great Britain. We provide a rich and varied curriculum which has its roots based on our school values of Love, Hope, Trust and Respect and underpinned by our school Vision: '*Let your light shine!*'

We aim to:

- Deliver an ambitious, aspirational curriculum which is planned to meet the needs of all our pupils
- Provide an engaging curriculum which is planned sequentially, allowing children to build on previous learning and securing firm foundations for the future
- Promote a sense of community for the children, parents, Church and the wider community
- Prepare pupils for life in our British Society by fostering in them attitudes and qualities which enable them to become confident, caring and responsible citizens

Implementation:

The teaching of Religious Education makes a distinctive contribution to the school curriculum as it allows all pupils to explore, understand and express their own response to spiritual and religious approaches to life. Our Religious Education curriculum provides high quality teaching and learning, which in turn enriches the children's learning experiences.

At Waterhouses CE Primary Academy and Nursery we follow the Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus for RE 2021-26, and use *Understanding Christianity* (UC) as a basis for the Christian element of our curriculum, supplementing this with resources and planning from RE Today/ NATRE for teaching about other world religions.

We utilise Understanding Christianity and RE Today/NATRE to ensure a sequential and progressive curriculum with depth, balance and opportunities for reflection.

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Impact:

The children at Waterhouses CE Primary Academy and Nursery enjoy learning about Christianity and other religions and why people choose to follow a religion. Through their R.E. learning, the children are able to make links between their own lives and those of others in their community and in the wider world.

Our children are developing an understanding of other people's cultures and ways of life and Worship, which they are then able to communicate to the wider community. As a result, our children feel safe to learn new things and share their beliefs with others in an accepting environment. Children at Waterhouses CE Primary Academy and Nursery feel valued as individuals and know that their beliefs are respected and celebrated. They leave the school with a sense of belonging to a community where they have the confidence and skills to make decisions, self-evaluate, make connections, and become lifelong learners.

RE teaching at this school will be in line with the recommendations of the Statement of Entitlement for Church Schools, published by the National Society and adopted by the Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education. Christianity will therefore be the majority study in RE as understanding Christianity as a living religion is the foundation of Religious Education in church schools. It is important that this draws on the richness and diversity of Christian experience in the breadth of its Anglican and other denominational forms, and in the variety of worldwide forms.

Church schools have a duty to foster an accurate and increasing understanding of world religions and world views. As a result, pupils will gain greater insight into the world in which they are growing up. They will also be able to appreciate the faith of others and develop a deeper understanding of their own beliefs and practices. These outcomes must contribute to harmonious relationships within and between communities, promoting social inclusion and combating prejudice.

RE teaching also follows the legal requirements of the Education Reform Act (1988), which places RE as part of the basic curriculum; a statutory subject which is an entitlement of all pupils.

A minimum of 1 hour per week is timetabled in both Key Stages 1 and 2 for Religious Education but it is also taught implicitly at many times. The Foundation Stage has some discrete teaching during the week and is also provided for through continuous provision.

RE curriculum time does not include assembly or collective worship, even when the assembly provides a starting point for curricular work. Christmas and Easter production rehearsals and performances are not RE.

Teaching and Learning Strategies:

Our policy is to aim to ensure the use in RE of art, drama, thinking skills, speaking and listening activities, visits, posters, photographs, videos, ICT use, display work and other active learning strategies.

Rationale for RE at Waterhouses CE Primary Academy and Nursery:

Religious Education (RE) plays an important role in defining the school's distinctive Christian character.

The SIAMS inspection question IQ2 'How does the curriculum reflect the school's theologically rooted Christian vision?' makes it clear that RE should reflect the school's Christian vision:

Make your light shine, so others will see the good you do and will praise your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:16.

The subject is regarded as a core subject within the school's curriculum. It has a vital role in developing religious literacy and deepening pupils understanding of Christianity, in all its forms, and fostering appreciation and understanding of other faith traditions. RE is non-confessional and should be treated as an academic subject in its own right.

Aims and Objectives:

The aims of Religious Education in our school are:

- To help prepare and equip all pupils for life and to understand the challenges faced by Christians in today's diverse and plural Britain, through fostering in each pupil an increasing level of religious literacy i.e. to have an established and growing knowledge and understanding of beliefs, practices, spiritual insights and secular world views.
- To offer a full and positive presentation of living Christianity and to enable pupils to encounter Christianity as the religion that shaped British culture and heritage and influences the lives of millions of people today.
- To enable pupils to learn about other major religions, their impact on culture and politics, art and history, and on the lives of their adherents.
- To develop an understanding of religious faith as the search for and expression of truth, and so to consider important human questions, values and concerns.
- To contribute to the development of pupils' own spiritual / philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own faith and beliefs.

The outcomes for pupils at the end of their time in our school are that they are able to:

- Compare and contrast the key beliefs and practices of the religions studied and show how they are connected to believers' lives.
- Describe different aspects of belonging to a religion – symbol, story, festival, belief, faith in action, ritual, worship.
- Express religious beliefs and ideas with the appropriate language, vocabulary and terminology and describe what they mean.
- Ask questions sensitively about the lives of believers and suggest appropriate answers.
- Compare their own experience and identity with others – including believers.
- Reflect and empathise with the big questions of life, suggesting some answers / insights.
- Be confident to explore their own spirituality and search for truth.
- To compare why some people, believe in God and some not.
- To discuss 'does faith help people when life gets hard'.

Visits and visitors:

Although there is no Parish church in Waterhouses, we have strong links with the Methodist Chapel in the village as well as visitors from other nearby churches.

A team from Ashbourne Methodist Church bring Open the Book each month, the ministers from Ashbourne Baptist Church and Cheadle Methodist Circuit lead collective Worship once a month and each half term, members of Ashbourne Elim Church visit to lead worship for the children.

With the support of the churches from our locality they enable us to offer a broad and varied Collective Worship and curriculum one that is enriched with knowledge and wisdom.

Every half term a celebration of Collective Worship is held and parents/carers are invited. This is well supported and members of our Local Governing Body are always there to serve refreshments and hand out awards to the children.

We have visits from the Diocese of Lichfield Christian Distinctiveness advisor (Lynsey Jennings), who supports the development of our school living its vision to the full and RE the curriculum.

Visits for the pupils are planned to INSPIRE / Darby Faith Trail and local churches.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) Development of Pupils:

Spiritual Development: Provision for the spiritual development of pupils includes developing their:

- ability to be reflective about their own beliefs (religious or otherwise) and perspective on life
- knowledge of, and respect for, different people's faiths, feelings and values – links with PSHE / RSE
- sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them – other curriculum areas: geography, art, science etc.
- use of imagination and creativity in their learning – art, DT etc.
- willingness to reflect on their experiences – Speech and Language class discussions.

Spiritual - widening pupils' vision of themselves and their own experience, within the context of a growing awareness and understanding of God.

In addition, the subject contributes to other areas of education and human experience and plays an important part of the wider programme of moral, social and cultural development.

Moral - helping each pupil develop their own informed values.

Social - helping pupils understand some major forces shaping the values in our society.

Cultural - aiding pupils in exploring aspects of their own cultural heritage, and in developing positive attitudes towards diversity.

RE can also make a positive contribution to enhancing creativity and enjoyment and ensure the well-being of all pupils.

Equal Opportunities:

All children are given access to the same learning opportunities. Account is taken of children with special educational needs through differentiation of task and outcomes. All pupils should be able to feel secure in their study of Religious Education whatever their religions or non-religious traditions.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting:

We recognise that assessment of RE can be complex and we think carefully about ways in which we can develop and adapt lessons to enable progress. We have starter and end of unit activities which supports our assessment. The children answer both the unit key question and the religious questions from the RE Today and Staffordshire Syllabus.

We track progress against key questions to support children's progress across the years.

Parents receive an annual report on their child's progress and achievement in RE.

Management of RE:

The Head Teacher and RE Co-Ordinator are responsible for:

- Producing a long-term plan for RE for the school ensuring coverage continuity and progression
- Supporting colleagues in short term planning and delivery of RE provision
- Ensuring Religious Education has status within the school
- Keeping in touch with subject developments and disseminating information as appropriate

- Auditing current resources, supplementing resource provision when money is available and disseminating this information to staff
- Undertaking personal development and subject training and ensuring provision for staff INSET
- Monitoring RE provision, practice and outcomes
- Reviewing the RE and Collective Worship Policy
- Meet with a member of the Diocesan RE advisory team each term.

Right to Withdraw:

‘RE is provided for all pupils, and is inclusive and broad minded’.

At Waterhouses CE Primary Academy and Nursery we wish to be an inclusive community but recognise that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from Religious Education or Collective Worship.

Parents wishing to exercise this right or if they have any concerns about the policy, provision and practice of Religious Education, are asked to discuss this with the Head teacher first.

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years.

Date Reviewed:

Date Ratified: