



Heatherside Infant School

Religious Education Policy

<i>Policy Type</i>	<i>Reviewed by</i>	<i>Approved on</i>	<i>Review cycle</i>	<i>Next review</i>
Curriculum	RE Lead & SLT	Autumn 2023	Bi annual	Autumn 2025

Parental Rights

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from religious education.

Philosophy

The principle aim of Religious Education (RE) in our school is to develop a more reflective approach to life and to enable and enrich this process through the study of living faiths. The teaching of RE will focus around raising pupils' awareness of experiences and concepts.

Religious Education contributes towards Personal, social and health education (PSHE).

In the Curriculum

We fulfil the legal requirement of RE in Heatherside Infant School by following Hampshire County Council's 'Living Difference' agreed syllabus. *"Living Difference seeks to introduce children and young people to what a religious way of looking at and existing in the world may offer in leading one's life, individually and collectively. It recognises and acknowledges that the question as to what it means to lead one's life with such an orientation can be answered in a number of qualitatively different ways"*.

The RE curriculum covers:

- Exploring and responding to Human Experience
- Investigating the Religious Traditions

1. Exploring and responding to Human Experience covers:

- spiritual dimension
- ways in which humans make sense of their lives
- exploring and responding to deeper questions

2. Investigating the religious traditions covers:

- Christianity and the Hindu faith, whilst also drawing on and sharing the experiences from children who follow other faiths, eg Islam.

Aim

Within the teaching of RE we aim to help the pupils to:

- know and understand about Christianity
- have respect for other faiths
- know and understand Bible stories and stories from other faiths.
- know and understand the importance of festivals within different cultures
- raise questions
- explore the wonders of the world
- develop thinking and reasoning skills

Teaching Strategies and Planning

Religious education will be taught as a discrete subject and will provide the source for topic work as planned within the three year programme from Yr-Y2.

The variety of strategies employed will include:

- visiting places of worship
- speaking and listening to each other and visitors
- drama
- looking at and handling artefacts
- discussion
- quiet reflection
- craft activities
- music
- DVD materials
- Role play opportunities
- P4C – Philosophy for Children

In the Classroom

Teachers should look for opportunities to praise co-operation and considerate behaviour. Children are encouraged to work as a whole class, groups and individually, according to the needs of the RE activities.

The children will be encouraged to reflect on their work and have the opportunity from time to time to reflect on their findings and participate as both speakers and listeners when sharing and celebrating their achievements.

Resources

- Religious artefacts
- DVDs
- Posters/Photographs
- Books
- Music CDs
- Buildings
- Role play packs
- IT-designated websites

ICT (Information and Communication Technology)

It is our aim to provide the facilities/resources and teaching and learning experiences, which will enable our pupils to be confident and effective independent users of information and communication technology.

Every child will have opportunities to develop skills which will prepare them for their next stage of learning and their future lives. ICT will be used through the curriculum to enhance learning experiences. The internet is a valuable resource which offers the children, with adult supervision and guidance, the opportunity to search for information from a wide range of sources based throughout the world. A filtered system is in place to ensure only suitable material is accessed.

Assessment and Record Keeping

The school has a long term plan to ensure continuity and progression. Staff assess the children's understanding and development through discussion and evaluation of their work.

Equal Opportunities

The school endeavours to provide equal opportunities to all children, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, ability and for those whom English is an additional language.

The policy should be read in conjunction with the Equality Policy.

Special Educational Needs and Disability

Children with special educational needs and disability are involved in all school activities which are adapted or extended to meet their differing needs.

Early Years

Reception children are introduced to RE by concentrating on traditions within the Christian faith and drawing comparisons with one other faith, the Hindu faith. Through this, we encourage a thoughtful and reflective approach to life.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Religious Education Lead will monitor the implementation of the RE scheme of work in all classes and engage year staff in discussion to evaluate the scheme.

Safety and Care

The school is continually monitoring the safety of the children in and around the buildings. The safe use of equipment is promoted at all times and any excursions are carefully supervised by adults.

Review

Parents are invited to request this document and comments are welcomed.