



Religious Education Policy

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Date of next review:	2020	Written by:	Jo Kehoe
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Signature:			

At Wyre Forest School we believe that our learners need a full breadth of experiences, at appropriate levels, to support both their academic and wider skill development. We want them to leave our school as rounded young adults, ready to meet the next phase in their lives, whatever that may be. Religious Education (RE) provides our pupils with:

“rich opportunities to learn about things that matter in the lives of local people and the wider world. to study beliefs, teachings and ways of living, and is structured so that they can explore a range of responses to questions of identity, meaning, purpose, values and commitments. In the process they can examine and reflect upon their own ideas and values.”

(Worcestershire agreed Syllabus For Religious Education 2015-2020)

RE will be taught throughout the school, through a range of learning experiences. Teaching will be at times part of the cross-curricular themed approach and also as distinct RE sessions. The WFS PSHCE, SRE and RE long-term curriculum map sets out objectives and expectations for each phase. In response to the learning needs of our pupils, teachers will determine individual pupil starting points, within this curriculum and work forward from this point. We take the planning for RE directly from the statutory syllabus of RE, prepared by Worcestershire’s Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE).

Based upon this syllabus, the key learning outcomes are:

- **To know about and understand a range of religions and worldviews.**
- **Express ideas and insights about the nature, significance and impact of religions and worldviews.**
- **To gain and deploy the skills needed to engage seriously with religions and worldviews.**

Pupils will be encouraged to respond, at their own levels and where appropriate, to key questions about:

- **religious beliefs, teachings, sources; questions about meaning, purpose and truth;**
- **religious and spiritual forms of expression; questions about identity and diversity;**
- **religious practices and ways of living; questions about values and commitments.**

Religious Education teaching builds upon discovering more about the founding principles of all religions, alongside providing pupils with opportunities to develop their social, moral, spiritual and cultural understanding. Throughout this we encourage pupils to foster a sense of tolerance and respect of others.

WFS staff will also “promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.” (Promoting Fundamental British Values as Part of SMSC in Schools, Departmental Advice for Maintained Schools, November 2014).

Legal requirements – Legislation England states that:

- RE must be provided for all registered pupils in state-funded schools in England, unless withdrawn by their parents.
- Special schools should ensure that every pupil receives RE 'as far as is practicable'.
- A locally agreed syllabus is a statutory syllabus of RE prepared by a local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) and adopted by the local authority.
- Maintained schools without a religious character should follow the locally agreed syllabus.
- The RE curriculum drawn up by a SACRE, or by an academy or free school 'shall reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, while taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain'.
- The Curriculum is to be taught to all pupils except for those withdrawn at the request of their parents (The Education Act (1996)).
- Teachers may withdraw from the teaching of RE unless they have been specifically employed to teach or lead and manage RE. An application to withdraw must be given in writing to the head and chair of governors stating their reasons for this. The request will then be considered and a decision will be made and staff will be informed.

Assessment

Formative assessments are continual throughout every lesson. Staff use a range of techniques to ensure that pupils are meeting the lesson and unit of study and learning outcomes. These include:

- Questioning techniques
- Discussion
- Monitoring written work
- Verbal feedback – participation in discussions
- Illustrated evidence

Monitoring

All planning, teaching and assessing of RE is monitored through whole school monitoring protocols.

Home/School Partnership

We value the supportive role parents play and encourage links between home and school. We will ask parents to contribute to the school's spiritual, social, moral and cultural ethos by attending assemblies and by supporting the teaching of RE with an

unbiased approach. Parents will be informed about half-termly RE units of work, through the curriculum leaflets, that are sent home.

Community Links

Wyre Forest School endeavours to promote community links by visiting local places of worship and inviting community leaders and groups into school to lead on a variety of issues.