



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

Approved by:	FGB
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Next Review Due	Biennial

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

This policy has been written with our school's Christian vision in mind. Through adopting this policy, we intend to provide children with a high quality, sequential religious education, allowing all children to flourish and live life in all its fullness.

Our children know they are blessed and a blessing. We strive to be ambitious for ourselves and each other, have integrity and nurture all.

'I tell you the truth. Anything you did for any of my people here, you also did for me.'

Matthew 25. 40

CONTEXT

The school is a voluntary aided church school whose governors have historically been predominantly found from the congregation of St Mary's Lawford. The school consequently has very strong links with this church, but as a result of local changes we are now supported by the whole of the 'Cross Reach Church community' (Lawford, Mistley and Bradfield).

The school has been growing from one form entry to two from entry since September 2021. Our current curriculum for religious education was designed and trialled in 2021 and is based upon the Essex agreed syllabus and was approved by the governors who are responsible for the RE curriculum in a Voluntary Aided School.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

(For details see the [2002 Education Act](#) and the [School Standard and Framework Act 1998](#))

RE is a part of the basic curriculum of the school, as set out in 2002 Education Act and the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, and must be taught to all pupils, unless they have been withdrawn from it by their parents.

- Parents have the right to withdraw their children from RE lessons or any part of the RE curriculum and the school has a duty to supervise them, though not to provide additional teaching or to incur extra cost.
- In order to deliver the aims and expected standards of the syllabus effectively, the expectation is that there is a minimum allocation of five per cent of curriculum time for RE.
- At Lawford pupils spend:

KS1- minimum of 5%

KS2 - minimum of 5%

AIMS FOR RE

THE AIMS OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ARE TO HELP PUPILS TO:

- acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and the other principal religions and world views represented in Great Britain;
- gain experience of being members of a community and develop appropriate skills as citizens;
- develop an understanding of the influence of beliefs, values and traditions on individuals, communities, societies and cultures;
- develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues, with reference to the teachings of the principal religions represented in Great Britain;
- enhance their spiritual, moral, cultural and social development by:
 1. developing awareness of the fundamental questions of life raised by human experiences, and of how religious teachings can relate to them
 2. responding to such questions with reference to the teachings and practices of religions, and to their own understanding and experience
 3. reflecting on their own beliefs, values and experiences in the light of their study
- develop a positive attitude towards other people, respecting their right to hold different beliefs from their own, and towards living in a society of diverse religions and beliefs.

The school fully accepts these aims as appropriate for RE for the pupils at Lawford and they have been used to inform the planning, teaching and learning.

SPIRITUAL AND MORAL DEVELOPMENT OF PUPILS

Through the aims above, RE contributes fully and positively to the spiritual, moral, cultural and social development of the pupils. This is promoted throughout the school ethos, curriculum and through its worship.

APPROACHES TO RE

RE will be provided:-

- a) usually one lesson a week dedicated to the delivery of RE as set out in each class's timetable;
- b) as part of a wider topic focus involving the delivery of other subjects such as History, Geography, Art, Music or English, and;
- c) Whole school days considering an aspect of a religion, this may additionally be celebrated in collective worship.

The Curriculum used for medium term planning is written specifically for the school and uses a wide range of resources including 'Understanding Christianity', islamresources.co.uk and many others from organisations like RE Today and NATRE. The overview of the themes can be found on the website.

MANAGEMENT OF RE

The School Co-ordinator is Miss Fairbairn whose task it is, within the overall management and curriculum policy of the school:

- to develop school policy on RE
- to work with colleagues to use the scheme of work for RE
- to ensure continuity and progression in RE through the school
- to advise on methods of teaching and learning
- to develop and maintain a resource base for RE
- to co-ordinate in-service training in RE
- to develop and maintain a development plan for RE
- to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of RE and to inform the school's self-evaluation process so that effective targets can be set to improve the impact of RE on pupil learning

METHODS IN RE

RE will use the full range of teaching and learning methods as appropriate for the age, development and abilities of the pupils, and for the purpose and content of the work, including:-

- whole class teaching, including drama, role play, debate and artwork
- individual research and resource-based learning
- visits to building and places outside school
- the use of artefacts
- visits from outside speakers

RESOURCES

At present the resources available to RE are hyperlinked throughout the curriculum document, on the medium terms plans on SharePoint and some hard copies are in the PPA room. Resources are added to when required by staff. The school uses resources from RE today, Understanding Christianity, NATRE

ASSESSMENT AND RECORDING

The school believes that it is very important to monitor the progress of its pupils in RE as in any other subject. Teachers complete termly assessment on 'Insight' and subject leaders monitor these assessments linked to work scrutinies. This information is used during moderation sessions and allows teachers to identify any gaps in children's knowledge and skills.

Assessment of RE for Reception pupils will be evaluated through their 'Understanding the World'.