



Policy Title	RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY
Committee responsible	Ethos & Curriculum
Last reviewed	March 2025
Next review due	March 2026
Who is governed by this policy	All staff and pupils at the school
Available on website	YES

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

1. Rationale

At Warnham CE Primary School, through the teaching of RE, we aim to support pupils in developing their own thinking and understanding of the world and their experience of it. We encourage curiosity, respect and celebration of different cultures and religions. Through teaching about different religions, we seek to develop children's wider religious, theological and cultural literacy, so that they become 'loving and courageous citizens', as stated in our school vision.

The National Association of Teachers of Religious Education (NATRE) proclaims that 'RE makes a valuable contribution to pupils' personal development.' Throughout valuable class discussions in RE lessons at Warnham, as well as our daily collective worship sessions focusing on Christian and British values, children are able to ask questions, make choices and develop their own spirituality, however that may look for each individual child.

The RE curriculum at Warnham is built on and reflects both the community we have here, as well as our vision for the children when they leave us for their next stage of life. We strive for children to 'let their light shine' through their mutual respect and understanding of people and the world around them.

2. Legal entitlement

All children are entitled to be taught RE each year, it is an important part of our school's spiritual, moral and social teaching. It promotes education for citizenship.

Schools have a statutory responsibility to deliver RE to all pupils, except those withdrawn by parents. Parents have the right to request that their child / children do not participate in this area of the curriculum. This request should be in writing and kept in the child / children's file. The child / children will be given alternative work to be done during this period within the class.

The expectation is that a minimum of 5% curriculum time should be allocated to RE in schools. This equates to:

- 36 hours per year integrated into the relevant strands of EYFS
- 36 hours per year in Key Stage 1
- 45 hours per year in Key Stage 2

3. Aims

The aims set out below (as stated in the Agreed Syllabus 2020-25) develop the skills needed to engage with the subject matter. They enable pupils to know and understand about religion and worldviews.

- Describe and explain beliefs and practices, recognising the diversity which exists within and between communities.
- Identify, discuss, and respond to sources of wisdom found in religion and worldviews.
- Investigate the nature and diversity of religious practices, ways of life and ways of expressing meaning.
- Interpret key concepts and ideas and apply them to questions of belonging, meaning and truth, expressing their own ideas and opinions.
- Draw conclusions about what enables different communities to live together respectfully for the well-being of all.
- Articulate clearly learning about beliefs, values and commitments and explain why they may be important in pupils' own and other people's lives.
- Justify their own ideas about how beliefs, practices and forms of expression influence individuals and communities.

- Express with increasing discernment their personal reflections and critical responses to questions and teachings about identity, diversity, meaning and value.
- Appreciate and appraise varied dimensions of religion linking these to British values.

4. Teaching and Learning

Our teaching enables children to extend their own sense of values and promotes their spiritual growth and development. We encourage children to think about their own views and values in relation to the themes and topics studied in the RE curriculum.

We enable our children to build on their own experiences and extend their knowledge and understanding of religious traditions.

5. Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

Through teaching religious education in our school, we provide opportunities for spiritual development. Children consider and respond to questions concerning the meaning and purpose of life. We help them to recognise the difference between right and wrong through the study of moral and ethical questions. We enhance their social development by helping them to build a sense of identity in a multicultural society. Children explore issues of religious faith and values and, therefore they develop their knowledge and understanding of the cultural context of their lives; developing an understanding of themselves enabling them to empathise with and respect others.

6. Curriculum

Our curriculum is based upon Christian beliefs and traditions as well as exploring other faiths.

In EYFS, KS1 & KS2 we plan in accordance with the West Sussex Agreed Syllabus (2020-25), the *Understanding Christianity* scheme of work and *The Emmanuel Project* scheme of work in line with Diocesan guidelines. Topics studied build upon prior learning. We offer opportunities for children of all abilities to develop their skills and knowledge and we ensure that the planned progression built into the scheme of work offers the children an increasing challenge as they move through the school.

7. Assessment and Recording

Teachers use a variety of means of assessing pupil's work in line with the assessment policy and the requirements of the Agreed Syllabus (2020-25). This includes:

- the regular reviewing of pupil's work
- observing the work of groups and individuals (particularly in whole-class and group discussions)
- assessing against the RE progression of skills as stated in the RE progression document
- assessing against objectives in both the schemes of learning used and the West Sussex Agreed Syllabus (2020-25)

8. Monitoring and Review

The Ethos & Curriculum committee will lead the monitoring of the RE policy.