



# RE Policy

**Written by:** Sam Jones

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**This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies:**

Religious Education in Schools: Non- statutory guidance 2010

Kent Agreed Syllabus for RE 2017-2022

SEN Policy

Whole School Overview

## **Intent**

### **Statement of Intent**

At Joydens Wood Infant School, our aspiration is for all children to be respectful and tolerant of all faiths in our society. Religious Education (RE) is tailored to meet the needs of the children in our school, promote equality, personal growth and development. This fosters mutual understanding between children of differing religions and cultural backgrounds. Our RE curriculum promotes the fundamental British values of “democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.” This will ensure that children understand the relevance of RE in today’s modern world and how it affects our lives.

We have adopted the Kent Agreed Syllabus for RE which enables us to provide a thought-provoking curriculum that stimulates children’s curiosity by posing challenging and meaningful questions, encouraging pupils to explore their own beliefs. The curriculum ensures that an age appropriate awareness is developed on meaning and purpose in life, beliefs, ultimate reality, issues of right and wrong. It enables pupils to build a sense of identity and belonging, which makes significant contribution to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC) and community cohesion.

In our school, RE contributes to the cross-curricular dimensions of the curriculum and it is explored through creative and flexible ways. RE is delivered through a cross-curricular approach, supported by termly themes and calendar events throughout the year. The provision of RE is enhanced by assemblies led by teaching staff and other agencies giving pupils the chance to interact with different religions and non-religious groups locally. The school provides opportunities for pupils to embed their knowledge by visiting religious places of worship to deepen understanding of other faiths and beliefs in our society.

### **Legal Requirements:**

RE is a statutory subject and plays an essential element in the whole school curriculum. It supports pupils’ overall learning and development. RE is an entitlement for all pupils as it supports their personal development and well-being. All pupils are entitled to receive RE as part of the broad and balanced curriculum at our school which promotes spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Although RE promotes equality and community cohesion which develops pupils’ understanding and appreciation of diversity, parents have a right to withdraw their children from the RE curriculum. Parents who wish to withdraw their children from the RE curriculum will be shown the Kent Agreed Syllabus for RE to explore its relevance to all pupils and to help parents make an informed decision. There will be opportunities to meet with the RE leader and Class teacher to discuss the learning objectives that are covered in the RE curriculum.

When faced with a request for withdrawal from RE, parents will be made to fully understand the options the law allows. As a school, we have a responsibility to provide RE to all pupils and to supervise pupils withdrawn by parents; unless the child is lawfully receiving RE elsewhere.

In addition to this, teaching staff will provide a planned activity linked to the faith of the child withdrawn from RE. The child will complete the planned activity in another area of the learning environment.

In our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and Year 1, RE is delivered through group times based on interests, calendar events and the enriched learning environment, parents will be informed ahead of time to give them an opportunity to make a decision.

## **Aims of National Curriculum**

In Joydens Wood Infant School, our aims are for all children to;

- develop an awareness of spiritual and moral issues in life experiences;
- develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other major world religions and value systems found in Britain;
- develop an understanding of what it means to be committed to a religious tradition;
- be able to reflect on their own experiences and to develop a personal response to the fundamental questions of life;
- develop an understanding of religious traditions and to appreciate the cultural differences in Britain today;
- develop investigative and research skills and to enable them to make reasoned judgements about religious issues;
- Have respect for other peoples' views and to celebrate the diversity in society.

## **Implementation: Teaching and Learning**

### **Subject Requirements:**

The Kent Agreed Syllabus for RE is used as a guidance framework to support teaching and learning in our school. The planned overview for the year equips pupils with the confidence to express their views and opinions which enables them to feel safe and secure in their own world. RE is also taught through religious festivals, celebrating festivals and theme days.

### **Curriculum Planning**

Joydens Wood Infant school has implemented the Kent Agreed Syllabus for RE as a guidance to ensure that all pupils have a high quality, coherent and progressive experience of RE. The syllabus makes space to encourage pupils to explore with their own beliefs which will enable them to build their sense of identity and belonging.

RE is taught through a cross-curricular approach to promote an ethos of respect for others, challenge stereotypes and to help build understanding of other cultures and beliefs. Lessons provoke challenging questions about the meaning and purpose of life, teaches pupils to develop respect for others and prompts pupils to consider their responsibilities to themselves and to others.

To enhance the depth of learning and coherence of concepts and skills, termly themes alongside assemblies are carefully planned to nurture and maintain a positive school culture. Pupil voice is conducted to inform future planning.

A five step planning format has been adopted from the syllabus and this should be followed consistently to ensure a coherent teaching method.

## **Teaching**

EYFS:

RE forms a valuable part of the educational experience of children in EYFS. It contributes particularly to the

- personal, social and emotional development
- communication, language and Literacy
- knowledge and understanding of the world
- creative development

In line with the EYFS profile, RE is provided through planned and purposeful play in the learning environment. Their learning experience is deepened through group times. This provides a platform for our pupils to experience rich opportunities whilst laying down the foundations of an enquiry based learning. A folder of the Kent Agreed Syllabus for RE will be kept in each class and it will be used regularly to support its planning and delivery. Evidence of RE should be shown in pupils' wow books, learning journals and displays.

Year 1:

RE will be delivered through group times and theme days, pupils will begin to explore other religions focusing on celebrations and rituals.

Year 2:

RE lessons will offer structure and narratives to ensure pupils fully engage and develop a deeper understanding of celebrations and rituals of other religions.

As RE will be delivered through a cross-curricular approach, evidence of this will be recorded in their writing books and class curriculum books. Star words from the key vocabulary list should be used during lessons. Recordings of lessons will depend on activities set. The Kent Agreed RE Syllabus is kept in the RE cupboard. When marking pupils' work, teaching staff are expected to follow the school's marking policy.

## **Resources**

Resources needed for RE are stored in the stationary cupboard and accessed when needed. Every year group has access to the Kent RE Syllabus for guidance and is to be used for planning to ensure consistency across the school. Religious books and journals are also available in the school library. It is the responsibility of each year group to check for resources and equipment well in advance of their lessons, to use them safely and to ensure that they are returned to their correct place to store. Any additional resources or breakages need to be reported to the RE leader.

## **Assessment**

RE will be assessed using the Progression of skills.

## **Cross Curriculum Links**

RE is statutorily required to be included alongside the National Curriculum. The Kent Agreed Syllabus requires a minimum of 5% curriculum time. For Key Stage 1, this is 36 hours per year. RE will be effectively delivered through a cross-curricular approach. This allows for children to explore and embed their learning. This model of delivering RE will be reviewed at the end of each term. RE themed days and celebrations have been mapped across the year to reflect the school's diversity and cultural approach towards learning.

### **Vulnerable Learners**

During planning, teachers will consider the needs of their pupils to ensure that all are inclusive and that progress is made throughout the lesson. EAL and SEND pupils' needs are to be considered and addressed using differentiated resources to encourage engagement.

Teachers should plan ahead of time an activity suitable for Pupils withdrawn from RE. This should be relevant to their beliefs. This should be evidenced in the curriculum books.

### **Extra-Curricular Activities**

Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) Jigsaw programme and SMSC is implemented through high expectations for respectful behaviour and good manners in our whole school community. Pupils thoroughly enjoy their learning, their enthusiasm shines through each learning experience as they share, discuss with a partner, enjoy challenges, partake in new experiences and apply their knowledge making cross curricular links. Pupils and teachers value and take pride in learning as can be seen in the care they take in the presentation of work in books and displays. Learning experiences are enhanced by theme days, pupil visits to different local places of worship and visitors into school. The choir plays an important role in pupils' development as they visit the local market and church to perform to members of our community.

### **Impact:**

At Joydens Wood Infant School, we believe that the impact of our RE curriculum will develop pupils to have a better understanding of different religions and how they can learn from and work alongside each other to create community cohesion. It will also ensure that our pupils will be able to talk confidently about their wellbeing, moral and cultural. The RE curriculum will promote inquisitive minds, respect, tolerance and understanding for all those around them including themselves. The evidence of this curriculum will be seen through using the correct vocabulary, explanations and respectful opinions, as well as cross-curricular evidence. This impact will be seen by all teachers and children enjoying the experience of teaching and learning RE and understanding how it can help them in their future.

### **The Role of Subject Leader**

The RE leader will support teaching staff on effective ways to deliver RE. A monitoring Impact form will be used during learning walks to help measure this. The learning walk is carried out for no more than 10 minutes, making notes on what is evident. Pupil voice and book looks will be conducted once a term to help measure how effective and consistent RE is in our school.

RE leader will work collaboratively with other schools to help improve and raise standards in the delivery of RE in Joydens Wood Infant school.

### **Continued Professional Development**

Staff survey will be conducted at the end of Autumn term and following on from that, staff training will be delivered in the Spring term. Regular informal meetings will be chaired to review model of teaching and learning of RE.

## **RE: statutory requirements and curriculum information**

The national curriculum states the legal requirement that:

**'Every state-funded school must offer a curriculum which is balanced and broadly based, and which:**

- **promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils; and**
- **prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.**

**All state schools ... must teach religious education ... All schools must publish their curriculum by subject and academic year online'.**

(National Curriculum in England: Framework Document, DfE, September 2013, p.4)

Although there is not a National Curriculum for RE, all maintained schools must follow the National Curriculum requirements to teach a broad and balanced curriculum, which includes RE. All maintained schools therefore have a statutory duty to teach RE. Academies and free schools are contractually required through the terms of their funding agreement to make provision for the teaching of RE. Further information concerning RE in academies and free schools is given below.

The RE curriculum is determined by the local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE), which is responsible for producing the locally agreed syllabus for RE. Agreed Syllabuses used in schools (maintained or academy), which are not designated with a religious character must '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'. Schools with a religious designation may prioritise one religion in their RE curriculum, but all schools must recognise diverse religions and systems of belief in the UK both locally and nationally.

In brief, legislation requires that:

- in maintained community, foundation or voluntary schools without a religious character, RE is taught in accordance with the local Agreed Syllabus;
- academies and free schools must teach RE within the requirements for a locally agreed syllabus, set out in section 375 (3) of the Education Act 1996 and paragraph (5) of Schedule 19 to the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. The requirements are that a syllabus must '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';
- for foundation and voluntary controlled schools with a religious character, RE must be taught according to the Agreed Syllabus unless, parents request RE in accordance with the trust deed of the school; and
- in voluntary aided schools RE must be taught in accordance with the trust deed. RE must be included in the curriculum for all registered pupils, including all pupils in reception classes and sixth form, but excluding:
  - pupils in nursery schools or nursery classes in primary schools;
  - any person aged nineteen or above for whom further education is being provided at school; and
  - any person over compulsory school age who is receiving part-time education.