


Ferring CE Primary School		
Policy:	Religious Education (RE) Policy	
Policy date:	Autumn 2023	
Review date:	Autumn 2025	
Person responsible	RE Leader	

The nature of RE

RE promotes the spiritual, moral, social, cultural and intellectual development of our pupils within a Christian environment. It helps them to gain a greater understanding of themselves as children of God and to develop a more sympathetic awareness of the needs and beliefs of others. This enables pupils to be better equipped to cope with the responsibilities and experiences of adult life promoting integration into modern society.

Legal requirements

The statutory requirements are to be found in the Education Act (1944) and the Education Reform Act (1988)

1. RE is part of the basic curriculum but not of the National Curriculum. It must be taught according to locally agreed syllabus prepared by a specially convened standing conference.
2. RE must not be denominational but teaching about denominational differences is permitted.
3. RE must be provided for all registered pupils. (In the Foundation Stage this will be planned for through PSED). Parents have the right to withdraw their children from RE lessons.
4. The Educational Reform Act (1988) states that 'RE must reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian whilst taking account of the teaching and practices of other principal religions represented in the country.' The county agreed syllabus meets the above requirements.

Our school ethos

Our ethos reflects basic Christian principles such as self-respect, respect for others, love, compassion, truthfulness and forgiveness where each individual is valued and all can grow and learn as part of a supportive Christian community led by God.

Aims and objectives

The school's starting points are the two Attainment Targets in the county agreed syllabus:

1. To develop knowledge and understanding of religion (learning about religion)
2. To explore and respond to human experience (learning from religion)

We aim to:

- Help each child develop a sense of his/her own identity and worth and to grow in self- knowledge and confidence.
- Help each child to develop his/her own beliefs so as to acquire a set of moral values that will guide their personal behaviour.
- Foster an attitude of fair-minded enquiry towards a whole range of religious and non-religious convictions.
- Actively encourage children to ask "big and puzzling" questions and to understand that some questions are difficult to answer.
- Extend pupils' awareness that people do commit themselves to causes and beliefs.
- Help each pupil to develop the capacity to form individual attitudes and beliefs based on considered opinions even though they may differ from the majority.
- Encourage respect, understanding and tolerance of those who adhere to different faiths and the ability to recognise prejudice.

- Foster feelings of wonder, delight and mystery and to reflect upon the natural world.
- Help pupils to reflect upon their own patterns of belief and behaviour through exploring Christian religious beliefs as well as other major world religions.

Entitlement

All pupils are entitled to Religious Education as laid down in the West Sussex Agreed Syllabus.

Withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw children from RE activities. We will provide supervision for any child withdrawn.

Implementation of RE

To teach the syllabus effectively, it is recognised that children in KS1 should be allocated 1 hour of RE teaching each week and in KS2 1 hour and 15 minutes per week. RE is based on the West Sussex Agreed Syllabus.

During the Foundation Stage, children are encouraged to reflect upon and discuss their own experiences and begin to relate these to themes in stories and religious teachings.

The RE scheme of work illustrates that In Key Stage 1, RE work will focus on Christianity and Judaism and in Key Stage 2 on Christianity, Islam and Hinduism (with a shorter unit on Judaism.) Other religions may also be included through studies of celebrations i.e. Divali or where a member of our school community is a member of a different religion.

Cross- curricular links: Because of the broad nature of RE, it will form natural links with a range of other curriculum areas e.g. English, drama, music, art, history, geography and PHSE. RE work will reinforce cross- curricular elements e.g. skills such as observing, questioning, discussing, evaluating and reflection; gender issues, citizenship and multi-cultural education.

RE will be taught through a range of teaching and learning styles including visitors, books, videos, artefacts, visits, drama and persona dolls. The teaching will involve links with the community including regular visits to St Andrews Church and Ferring Baptist Church and provide opportunities for the children to work closely with local faith leaders.

Equal Opportunities

All children have equal entitlement and equal access to a range of materials to support their learning in RE. Any disability will be fully catered for to ensure full access to the curriculum. Materials have been carefully chosen so that issues relating to race, gender, religious beliefs and social background are handled sensitively but fairly.

Assessment

Assessment is ongoing and is recorded at the end of each unit so that teachers and the RE coordinator can see who is working above, below and within expected levels and use this to inform future planning/teaching. The children will also play an active role in the assessment of their own learning by using the Can I? Sheets that encourage them to question the skills they have.

Evidence is gathered mainly through observation, oral discussion, written tasks and drawing as well as photographs and film. The recorded evidence assists teachers both in their planning and in their reporting to parents and governors. Reception children will be assessed in line with the Foundation Stage profile.