



# OVERCHURCH INFANT SCHOOL

## RE Policy

AMENDMENTS MADE JAN 2022 ARE HIGHLIGHTED IN  
YELLOW.

Approved by FGB:	
Date ratified by Governors: 09.02.2022	
Date reviewed: January 2022 – J Wilson	
Date of next review: Spring 1 - 2023	
Signed:	Headteacher
Signed:	Chair of Governors

## Contents:

Statement of intent

1. Legal framework
2. Roles and responsibilities
3. Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)
4. Curriculum
5. Teaching and learning
6. Planning
7. Assessment and reporting
8. Resources
9. Equal opportunities
10. Monitoring and review
11. Appendices include
  - Religious Believers Visiting OIS (code of conduct)
  - EYFS framework and RE
  - RE in English schools Non-stat guidance 2010 excerpts

## **Statement of intent**

Overchurch Infant School recognises the effect that an inclusive teaching style can have on a pupils' progress, both inside and outside of the school environment. At our school, we provide a broad and balanced curriculum which encompasses spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, in accordance with the locally-agreed syllabus of the Wirral LEA.

The school has created this policy in order to ensure that:

- All pupils are provided with a balanced and broad curriculum which encompasses the traditions of Great Britain as well as a variety of other mainstream religions and beliefs.
- All staff members are aware of planning, assessment, teaching and learning requirements for the RE curriculum.
- All pupils receive a high level of teaching which is maintained at all times.
- Community cohesion and high standards of achievement are promoted.
- Progression of academic achievement occurs consistently throughout the key stages.

### **Our Intent for Religious Education at Overchurch Infant School.**

At Overchurch Infant School, our RE curriculum develops the qualities and attributes children need to thrive as individuals, family members and members of society and the global community. Children develop a knowledge and understanding of the nature of religion and religious beliefs, explore the way that religious beliefs shape people's life and conduct and start to consider their own response to the religious dimension of life, as they start to develop their own beliefs and values. Our curriculum for Religious Education is based on the Wirral Agreed Syllabus for RE and is tailored carefully to reflect the needs of the children in our school. We enhance our curriculum through our close links with local organisations such as St. Mary's Church and local care homes. We draw on the expertise and resources of our local Minority Ethnic Achievement Service, with workshops designed to broaden pupil awareness of the multi-cultural world in which we live.

## **1. Legal framework**

1.1. This policy has due regard to legislation, including, but not limited to the following:

- The Education Act 1996, section 375
- The Education Act 2002, section 78
- The School Standards and Framework Act, schedule 19

1.2. This policy has been created with regard to the following DfE guidance excerpts of which are attached in appendixes.

- DfE (2010) 'Religious education in English schools: Non-statutory guidance 2010'
- DfE (2017) 'Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage'

## **2. Roles and responsibilities**

2.1. The subject leader is responsible for:

- Preparing policy documents, curriculum plans and schemes of work for the subject.
- Reviewing changes to the locally-agreed curriculum and advising teachers on their implementation.
- Monitoring the learning and teaching of RE, providing support for staff where necessary.
- Ensuring continuity and progression from year group to year group.
- Encouraging staff to provide effective learning opportunities for pupils.
- Helping to develop subject colleagues' expertise in RE.
- Organising the deployment of resources and carrying out an annual audit of all related resources.
- Communicating developments in the subject to all teaching staff and the senior leadership team (SLT) as appropriate.
- Organising, providing and monitoring CPD opportunities regarding RE.
- Ensuring common standards are met for recording and assessing pupil performance.
- Advising on the contribution of RE to other curriculum areas, including cross-curricular and extra-curricular activities, e.g. PSHE lessons.
- Setting new priorities for the development of RE in subsequent years.

2.2. The classroom teacher(s) is/are responsible for:

- Acting in accordance with this policy.
- Ensuring progression of pupils' RE, with due regard to the locally-agreed syllabus of the Wirral LEA.
- Planning lessons effectively, ensuring a range of teaching methods are used to cover the content of the locally-agreed syllabus of the Wirral LEA.
- Liaising with the subject leader about key topics, resources and support for individual pupils.
- Monitoring the progress of pupils in their class and reporting this on an annual basis to parents.

- Reporting any concerns regarding the teaching of the subject to the subject leader or a member of the SLT.
- Undertaking any training that is necessary in order to effectively teach RE.

2.3. The special educational needs coordinator is responsible for:

- Liaising with the subject leader in order to implement and develop specialist writing-based learning throughout the school.
- Organising and providing training for staff regarding the RE curriculum for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).
- Advising staff on how best to support pupils' needs.
- Advising staff on the inclusion of learning objectives in pupils' individual education plans.
- Advising staff on the use of teaching assistants in order to meet pupils' needs.

### **3. Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)**

- 3.1. All pupils in the EYFS will be taught RE as an integral part of their personal, social and emotional learning and their understanding of the world.
- 3.2. All pupils will encounter religions and world-views through multiple methods of teaching, e.g. books, educational visits and storytelling.
- 3.3. All pupils will reflect on their feelings and experiences.
- 3.4. Teachers will encourage imaginative play and curiosity in pupils.
- 3.5. Understanding the world People and communities: children talk about past and present events in their own lives and in the lives of family members. They know that other children don't always enjoy the same things, and are sensitive to this. They know about similarities and differences between themselves and others, and among families, communities and traditions.

### **4. Curriculum**

- 4.1. Overchurch Infant School adheres to the locally-agreed syllabus of the Wirral LEA.
- 4.2. RE provision will include a distinct body of knowledge and will enable all pupils to make effective progress in achieving RE learning outcomes.
- 4.3. The school will make provisions to account for parents' right to withdraw their child from RE lessons.
- 4.4. All pupils will have a high quality, coherent and progressive experience of RE.
- 4.5. The school will decide the attitudes and skills they wish to emphasise across a school year or key stage, which meets the needs of the pupils.
- 4.6. The school will ensure that RE provisions contribute to the cross-curricular dimensions of the wider curriculum.

- 4.7. Pupils will be introduced to issues of right and wrong, good and evil, conflict and justice, supported by our **new PSHE curriculum (Jigsaw)**, Philosophy for children, No outsiders, Picture News, circle times).
- 4.8. Good practice for the RE curriculum will include:
- Exploring controversial issues in the modern world.
  - Working with local communities who promote the beliefs taught in lessons.
  - Learning outside the classroom by participating in educational visits.
  - Introducing themed days and assemblies which celebrate different beliefs.
  - Encouraging pupils to deploy their skills and reflect on questions regarding truth and morality.
  - Promoting debate and dialogue of pupils within their local community.

## **5. Teaching and learning**

- 5.1. The RE curriculum is delivered at least once a week for KS1. This will include subject specific RE lessons, visits, visitors, theme days, cross-curricular activities, P4C and PSHE sessions etc.
- 5.2. Classroom teachers use high-quality texts and resources which model the religious and non-religious beliefs of Great Britain, in accordance with the school's British Values Policy.
- 5.3. Classroom teachers encourage pupils to discuss topics covered in RE, orally with their peers and as a whole class.
- 5.4. To improve understanding of the topic, several methods of teaching are deployed including but not limited to:
- Storytelling.
  - Adult-led activities.
  - Child initiated activities.
  - Discussion.
  - Role-play.
  - Creative tasks.
- 5.5. To improve communication and language in the classroom, teachers will encourage pupils':
- Organisation, clarification and sequencing of thoughts, feelings and ideas.
  - Development of their own narratives in relation to the stories they hear in lessons.
  - Exploration of their feelings and emotions towards set narratives.

## **6. Planning**

- 6.1. All lessons will have clear learning objectives, which are shared with pupils as appropriate.
- 6.2. Planning for RE will be comprised of long-term, medium-term and short-term planning which will be carried out by the relevant member of staff, e.g. the subject lead, subject support, classroom teacher or HTLA.
- 6.3. Long-term plans will be created by the subject leader and will include the topics studied in each term during the key stage.

- 6.4. Medium-term plans and resources will be written by the subject leader and the details of work studied each term will be outlined for the teacher to build upon.
- 6.5. Short-term plans will include the details of work studied during each lesson. The subject aims and lesson objectives will be written by the subject leader and the details of work studied each lesson will be provided in the form of a PPT and resources for the teacher to build upon.
- 6.6. The subject leader is responsible for reviewing and updating long-term and medium-term plans on an annual basis, and communicating these to teachers prior to the start of a new term.
- 6.7. Teachers are responsible for reviewing and updating short-term plans, building on the medium-term plans, taking into account pupils' needs and identifying the methods in which topics could be taught.
- 6.8. Short-term plans will reflect the lesson objectives and proceeding aims of future lessons.
- 6.9. Medium-term plans will identify the main learning objectives of RE, learning activities and differentiation. This information will be shared with the subject leader to ensure there is a visible progression between years.

## **7. Assessment and reporting**

- 7.1. Pupils will be assessed using methods of formative and summative assessment throughout the year.
- 7.2. Formative assessment will be carried out routinely throughout the year through questioning and recorded work. The results from formative assessments will be used to inform teachers' lesson plans.
- 7.3. Summative assessment will be carried out during and at the conclusion of each topic to measure pupils' development throughout the topic, using templates or 'Plickers' questionnaires designed by the Subject Leader. Teachers will use the results to assess pupils' overall achievement for each half term. This information will be recorded on the relevant 'Insight' tracking page to enable subject leader monitoring and for future teachers to view, in order to measure how well a pupil has progressed at any given time in their education.
- 7.4. Parents will be provided with a written report about their child's progress during the Summer term every year. These will include information on pupils' attitudes towards RE and understanding of the key concepts.
- 7.5. The progress of pupils with SEND will be monitored by the Inclusion Lead.

## **8. Resources**

- 8.1. The subject leader is responsible for the management and maintenance of writing resources, as well as for liaising with the school business manager to purchase further resources.
- 8.2. Resources, such as books and artefacts, are stored in the main Y2 corridor curriculum stock cupboard.
- 8.3. Display walls will be utilised and updated on a termly basis, in accordance with the topics being taught at the time.
- 8.4. The school library contains an array of resources to support pupils' learning.

## **9. Equal opportunities**

- 9.1. All pupils will have equal access to the RE curriculum.
- 9.2. Learning ability, physical ability, linguistic ability, gender, ethnicity and/or cultural circumstances will not impede pupils from accessing RE lessons.
- 9.3. When a pupil's participation in RE lessons is restricted due to the factors outlined above, the lessons will be adapted to meet the pupil's needs.
- 9.4. Cultural and gender differences are positively reflected in RE lessons and the teaching materials used.

## **10. Monitoring and review**

- 10.1. This policy will be monitored and reviewed on an annual basis by the subject leader.
- 10.2. The scheduled review date for this policy is **January 2023**.
- 10.3. The subject leader will review the teaching of RE in the school, ensuring that taught content adheres to the locally-agreed syllabus of the Wirral LEA.
- 10.4. Any changes to the locally-agreed syllabus of the Wirral LEA will be communicated to the headteacher.
- 10.5. Any changes to this policy will be communicated to all teaching staff.