



# Religious Education Policy

(October 2023)

## **Introduction**

RE is Religious Education.

This is a separate subject that is taught explicitly in addition to aspects of learning being presented through cross curricular themes, learning and behaviour in school.

## **Statutory Duties**

Religious Education must be provided for all pupils in full time education except those withdrawn at the request of their parents. Neither the governors, head nor any other person has the legal right to withdraw a pupil from R.E.

*Education Act (2002 Section 80 (1)(a); (2) (a) (b)), The Derbyshire Agreed syllabus for RE 2020-2025*

RE 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'.

*Education Act (1996 Section 375 (3))*

*School Standards and Framework Act (1998, Schedule 19, para.5) Education Act 2002, s80.*

## **Peak values for RE**

- We value the way in which all pupils are unique, and our curriculum promotes respect for the views of each individual pupil as well as for people of all cultures.
- We hold in high regard the spiritual and moral development of each pupil, alongside their intellectual and physical growth.
- We place great significance on each person's role within our community. Our curriculum is thoughtfully designed to foster cooperation and understanding among all members of our community
- We uphold the rights of every individual in our society. At our school, we deeply respect each pupil for their individuality and treat them with unwavering fairness and honesty. Our primary objective is to enable each pupil to achieve success, and we are committed to providing equal opportunities for all the pupils in our school
- We have a profound appreciation for our environment. Through our curriculum, we endeavour to impart respect for our world and instil the importance of caring for it for future generations, as well as for our own.

## **Intent**

The Principal aim of RE in Derbyshire Schools

*'Is to engage pupils in systematic enquiry into significant human questions which religions and worldviews address, so that they can develop the understanding and skills needed to appreciate and appraise varied responses to these questions, as well as develop responses of their own.'*

The Derbyshire Agreed syllabus for RE 2020-2025

At Peak School for our pupils this means:

*'RE explores life's big questions to understand what people believe and how it shapes their lives. This helps us reflect on our own ideas and values.'*

The RE curriculum is organised into pathways, ensuring RE is made accessible for all pupils across school. The pathways are designed to promote engagement, learning and personal growth and development.

Through the teaching of RE we aim:

- To make accessible a range of learning experiences suitable to their needs to allow them to explore beliefs practices and values associate with world religions.
- To develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of Christianity, other principal religions, other religious traditions and other world views.
- To offer opportunities for personal reflection and spiritual development.
- To enhance pupils' awareness and understanding of religions and beliefs, teachings, practices and forms of expression, as well as of the influence of religion on individuals, families, communities and cultures.
- To encourage pupils to learn from different religions, beliefs, values and traditions while exploring their own beliefs and questions of meaning.
- To encourage pupils to develop their sense of identity and belonging.
- To enable them to flourish individually within their communities and as citizens in a pluralistic society and global community.
- To enable pupils to develop respect for and sensitivity to others, in particular those whose faiths and beliefs are different from their own.
- To promote discernment and enables pupils to combat prejudice.

## **Implementation**

The agreed syllabus requires that all pupils learn from Christianity in each key stage. In addition, pupils will learn from the principle religions in the UK.

Each pathway will approach each religion at an appropriate level, through the use of big questions. RE will be taught through a blend of RE theme days and weekly lessons as appropriate at each pathway.

Religious experiences will be accessed through sensory activities, artefacts, songs, music, stories, drama, visits, IT and visitors to school.

Allocation of time for RE is as set in the Derbyshire Agreed Syllabus 2020-2025.

Derbyshire Agreed Syllabus is to be used to support teaching providing practical support and guidance about how to teach RE.

Pupils should be encouraged to take an active part in their learning.

Planning must identify intended learning outcomes. These provide the goals of learning and identify what pupils know, understand and can do as a result of their learning in RE. These should be shared in an appropriate way with pupils.

### **Links with the Wider Community**

- Visitors are welcomed into our school
- Links with the local churches, visits to places of worship of other faiths will be arranged to support the understanding of different cultures
- The school supports the work of a variety of charities
- Children will be taught to appreciate and take responsibility for their local environment, through curriculum topic such as recycling.

### **Impact**

Assessment is integral to teaching and learning. A wide range of classroom activities will be used to gather information about pupil learning and progress.

These will include:

- observing pupils as they work and interact with their peers and adults;
- listening to pupils as they describe their work and reasoning to others
- questioning, especially the use of open questions which allow for a range of responses
- setting tasks which require the planned use of specific skills
- Use of a variety of forms of communication - artwork, artefacts, actions, role play, as well as short and extended writing.
- Observing engagement in RE focused experiences.