



## Arley Primary Religious Education Policy 2021-22

At Arley Primary school our curriculum works with the SACRE agreed syllabus, and it aims to challenge children to learn about a range of religions and non-religious worldviews whilst also considering the big questions of life. At our school we want to ensure that our children go out into the world with the knowledge and skills to understand the beliefs of others and live in today's diverse and ever changing world. Our curriculum plans aim to give our children the opportunities to learn about religion and non-religious worldviews in a variety of ways for example: through art, music, drama and dance as well as through discussion and more formal writing opportunities.

### **The purpose of RE**

**The following are taken from the Warwickshire Agreed Syllabus (2018-2023):**

Religious Education contributes dynamically to children and young people's education in schools by provoking challenging questions about meaning and purpose in life, beliefs about God, ultimate reality, issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human.

In RE they learn about and from religions and worldviews in local, national and global contexts, to discover, explore and consider different answers to these questions.

They learn to weigh up the value of wisdom from different sources, to develop and express their insights in response, and to agree or disagree respectfully.

Teaching therefore should equip pupils with systematic knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews, enabling them to develop their ideas, values and identities.

It should develop in pupils, an aptitude for dialogue so that they can participate positively in our society, with its diverse religions and worldviews.

Pupils should gain and deploy the skills needed to understand, interpret and evaluate texts, sources of wisdom and authority and other evidence. They should learn to articulate clearly and coherently their personal beliefs, ideas, values and experiences while respecting the right of others to differ.

## **Principle aim**

The principle aim of RE is to engage pupils in systematic enquiry into significant human questions which religion 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 Curriculum for RE aims to ensure that all pupils:**

1. Know about and understand a range of religions and worldviews, so that they can:
  - describe, explain and analyse beliefs and practices, recognising the diversity which exists within and between communities and amongst individuals.
  - identify, investigate and respond to questions posed, and responses offered by some of the sources of wisdom found in religions and worldviews.
  - appreciate and appraise the nature, significance and impact of different ways of life and ways of expressing meaning
  
2. Express ideas and insights about the nature, significance and impact of religions and worldviews, so that they can:
  - explain reasonably their 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, including ethical issues.
  
3. Gain and deploy the skills needed to engage seriously with religions and worldviews, so that they can:
  - find out about and investigate key concepts and questions of belonging, meaning, purpose and truth, responding creatively.
  - enquire into what enables different individuals and communities to live together respectfully for the wellbeing of all.
  - articulate beliefs, values and commitments clearly in order to explain why they may be important in their own and other people's lives.

### **The Legal Requirement RE is for all pupils:**

- RE must be provided for all registered pupils in state funded schools in England, unless withdrawn by their parents. It is a necessary part of a 'broad and balanced curriculum'.
- This requirement does not apply for children below compulsory school age. RE is locally determined, not nationally:
- A locally agreed syllabus is a statutory syllabus for RE recommended by an Agreed Syllabus conference for adoption by a local authority.
- Religious Education is compulsory in faith and non-faith academies, as set out in their funding agreements and we will follow the Agreed Syllabus for Warwickshire 2018-2023 RE is multi-faith: As education policy changes, the legal requirement for RE for all registered pupils remains unchanged. RE is an entitlement for all pupils, unless as parents you wish to withdraw your child from some or all of the RE curriculum.

### **Right of withdrawal:**

This was first granted when RE was actually religious instruction and carried with it connotations of induction into the Christian faith. RE is very different now- open, broad, exploring a range of religious and non-religious worldviews. However, in the UK, parents still have the right to withdraw their children from RE on the grounds that they wish to provide their own religious education. (School Standards and Framework Act 1998 S71 (3)).

This would only happen after conversation with the parents.

### **The Warwickshire Agreed Syllabus:**

This agreed syllabus requires that all pupils learn about Christianity in each key stage. In addition, pupils will learn from the principal religions represented in the UK, in line with the law. These are Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism and Judaism. Furthermore, children from families where nonreligious worldviews are held are represented in almost all of our classrooms.

4-5 year olds Reception	Children will encounter Christianity and other faiths, as part of their growing sense of self, their own community and their place within it.
5-7 year olds KS1	Christians, and Muslims, or Jewish people.
8-10 year olds KS2	Christians, Muslims, Hindus, and Jewish people.

### **Planning and Teaching:**

The medium term plans ensure that there is progression throughout the school and that children are building upon knowledge learnt in previous years. The topics are designed so that pupils develop knowledge and understanding of the principal religions in Great Britain and Christianity is taught as a core religion in both key stages. Our RE curriculum allows children to see the similarities within the major religions and make connections. We recognise that within classes, there is a wide variety of abilities and so we provide suitable learning opportunities that are matched to the needs of all children. This is done through providing support, differentiating activities and using a range of teaching and learning styles within lessons. Where possible, teaching will be supplemented with trips to places of worship or visits from people from religious communities.

### **RE in the Early Years Foundation Stage:**

At Arley Primary, children in EYFS will encounter religions and worldviews through special people, books, times, places and objects and by visiting places of worship. They will listen to and talk about stories. Children will be introduced to subject specific words and use all their senses to explore beliefs, practices and forms of expression. They will be given opportunities to ask questions and reflect on their own feelings and experiences.

## **Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2:**

Pupils will develop their knowledge and understanding of religions and worldviews, recognising their local, national and global contexts. They will use basic subject specific vocabulary and will be encouraged to raise questions and begin to express their own views in response to the material they learn about and in response to questions about their ideas.

The teaching and learning of RE will enable pupils to:

A Know about and understand a range of religions and worldviews.

B Express ideas and insights about the nature, significance and impact of religions and worldviews

C Gain and deploy the skills needed to engage seriously with religions and worldviews.

## **Assessment, achievement and attainment:**

By the end of each key stage, pupils are expected to know, apply and understand the matters, skills and processes specified in the relevant programme of study. Pupil's achievements will be assessed using the criteria within the programme of study. Assessment requires teachers to know what individual pupils know and can do. The learning outcomes on each key question will be used to devise appropriate learning activities which will enable pupils to secure their understanding and skills.

## **Monitoring**

This is monitored by the RE coordinator (Victoria Blower) and will be in the form of book trawls and pupil talk.

## **British Values and Value based learning:**

RE can make a key educational contribution to pupils' explorations of British values, and excellent teaching of RE can enable pupils to learn to think for themselves about them. Pupils will learn about and consider: Mutual tolerance, respectful attitudes, democracy, the rule of law and individual liberty through RE. Developing knowledge, skills and attitudes in RE The following skills are important in RE, and are reflected within the agreed syllabus programme and its approach. Our RE teaching aims to develop the

following skills: Investigating, reflecting, expressing, interpreting, empathising, applying, discerning, analysing, synthesising and evaluating. The following attitudes are to be fostered through our teaching of the agreed syllabus and our value based learning. Curiosity and wonder, commitment, fairness, respect, self-understanding, open mindedness, critical mindedness and enquiry.

### **Resources**

Resources are located in the KS1 learning street and are provided for all religions taught within our scheme of work.

Written by: Victoria Blower October 2021

Review date: