

Riverside Primary School



Riverside
Primary School

Religious Education Policy

The Governing Body approved this Policy: September 2020

Review Date: September 2023



Policy document for Religious Education

This policy has been updated by the RE subject lead, Keren Elson, in consultation with the Head teacher, RE Link Governor and teaching staff. It was approved by governors and will be reviewed during September 2023.

Context

Riverside Primary is a slightly smaller than average urban primary school in Seacombe on the Wirral. The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 (IMD) places Seacombe amongst the top 1% most deprived neighbourhoods in the country. Riverside is in the highest percentile of schools nationally for social disadvantage. Riverside serves children in the age range 3 to 11 yrs. From September 2021, we will be extending our provision for 2 year olds. We run a highly successful, LA funded SEMH inclusion base, The Willows, for children throughout the Wirral who have been excluded or are close to exclusion: providing them with a second chance at mainstream education.

We teach according to the Wirral Agreed Syllabus, that was released in March 2020 by Assistant Director of Education, Sue Talbot. At present there is no SACRE on the Wirral.

Seacombe is a very monoculture area with majority of our children coming from white families, few of which have religious affinities. We recognise the variety of religious and non-religious backgrounds from which our pupils come. We welcome the diversity and we are sensitive to the home background of each child. We are glad to have the active support of religious and non-religious members of our local community to support our teaching of RE.

We recognize the inter-relationship between pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, and the leading role which the RE curriculum plays in some of these areas.

The Aims of RE at Riverside Primary School

RE at Riverside Primary school will be provided in line with the legal requirements. These are that:

- the basic curriculum will include provision for religious education for all pupils on the school roll.
- the content of RE shall reflect the fact that religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, while taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religious traditions represented in Great Britain.
- the RE which is provided shall be in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus for Wirral.



Within the framework of the law and the Agreed Syllabus, the aims in RE at Riverside Primary school are for pupils to:

- acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and the other principal religions represented in the United Kingdom.
- develop an understanding of the influence of religious and non-religious worldviews, values and traditions on individuals, communities, societies and cultures, locally, nationally and globally
- develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues, with reference to the teachings and diversity within the religious and non-religious worldviews represented in the United Kingdom.
- enhance their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development by:
 - developing awareness of the fundamental questions of life raised by human experiences, and of how religious teachings and other beliefs can relate to them.
 - responding to such questions with reference to the teachings and practices of religions and worldviews relating them to their own understanding and experience.
 - reflecting on their own beliefs, values and experiences in the light of their study.
- develop positive attitudes of respect towards other people who hold views and beliefs different from their own, and towards living in a society of diverse religions and worldviews.

Time Allocation

The time allocated for teaching RE at Riverside Primary school is:

EYFS planned within the EYFS Framework concentrating on celebrations. The Willows class will also teach RE through celebrations following religious calendars. KS1, 39 hours (one hour per week) and KS2 at least 45 hours (one per week with added 'Curriculum Enrichment' days eg Passover).

Scheme of Work

A detailed scheme of work is available for teachers and other interested people alongside this policy. As the RE Wirral syllabus did not include an updated curriculum, therefore we chose to use the resources provided by Somerset SACRE, which fitted in well with the agreed syllabus. Michael Strange, from Somerset SACRE, had been advising the Wirral SACRE on a future way forward.

EYFS RE themes, emerge from the EYFS Framework, concentrating on celebrations throughout the year. The Willows, (SEMH Inclusion Base), also follow these themes.

KS1 Christianity and Islam, Hinduism, Judaism and Humanism.

Lower KS2 Christianity and Islam, Hinduism, Judaism, Sikhism and Humanism

Upper KS2 Christianity and Islam, Hinduism, Judaism, Buddhism and Humanism



Teaching and Learning Strategies

Our policy is to aim to ensure the use in RE of art, drama, thinking skills, speaking and listening activities, visits, posters, photographs, videos, ICT use, display work and other active learning strategies. Cross curricular work is encouraged, in line with whole school policy on teaching and learning.

We recognise the importance of teaching to the Wirral Syllabus in a creative, knowledge-rich, broad and balanced way.

Resources

We have a wide range of resources, to support our RE teaching. Resources are stored in the Yellow room and should be returned after use. Our school invests yearly in new books and religious artefacts. Our staff are given time to familiarize themselves with any new materials. In each class, there is an RE display with books and artefacts available for the children to interact with. These include stories from different traditions. A regular audit of resources is undertaken by the RE subject leader in order to update our collection. We encourage school families to donate appropriate artefacts and utilise our local resource centre for RE.

Visits and visitors

We are able to visit places of worship in the immediate vicinity of the school, where faith leaders and other members of the community meet with children and are involved in the teaching of RE. We aim to use this valuable resource for all classes. We have visitors to school, who share their beliefs and religious customs with the children. Due to financial constraints, children have limited opportunities to make the visits outside of school. We run 'Curriculum Enrichment Days' that include dance, food and the use artefacts within a 'real' setting eg recreating a Langar as part of our Sikh day where the children were encouraged to take turns serving.

Matching Work to Pupils' Needs

Our whole school policy regarding pupils with special needs and differentiation, applies to RE. Teachers should be alert to the fact that some children have special and deep experience of a religion through family practice. This of course may not relate to their general educational ability.

Year groups have class scrap books where they put paired or group work. This is a good opportunity for cross ability work and discussion.

Assessment

We report on pupils' progress and attainment in RE to parents, as required by law. The Wirral Agreed Syllabus provides descriptions of progress and attainment, which the school has agreed to use as a basis for reporting at the end of each key stage. We make specific, individual, accurate comments on each child's progress in RE in annual reports, based on regular monitoring of work and transfer this information to new schools when pupils leave us.



Mrs. Elson, the subject leader, will co-ordinate gathering pupils' work that provides clear evidence of progress and attainment to clarify our understanding of what makes for quality RE.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

We intend that this policy should operate for the next three years, and then be fully reviewed by all staff and governors. To ensure that our RE policy is in practice, and to help teachers keep track of their own work and needs for support or training, staff are asked to give verbal feedback to Mrs. Elson. The subject leader's role includes monitoring and evaluation of this policy in practice. We maintain a 'self-evaluation' of our RE work in preparation for any scrutiny.

Self-Evaluation

The subject leader for RE will assess and review the subject's strengths and areas for development, in line with new OFSTED guidance from January 2019 and self-evaluation and review provided by NATRE.

Staff training and CPD

All staff have access to RE CPD in line with the subject leader's identified areas for development. This is either 'in house' or from an external provider. The RE subject leader also attends local network meetings, Wirral LTLRE, and so shares resources and good practice with local schools.

Transition

We ensure that transition across key stages (including to KS3) includes a simple statement of the religions and topics that pupils have covered alongside their progress and achievement.

Withdrawal

We note the Human Right of parents to withdraw their children from RE and of teachers to withdraw from teaching the subject. We aim to provide an open curriculum which can be taught to all pupils, by all staff. Teachers are asked to refer to the head teacher any questions from parents about withdrawals. Requests for full or partial withdrawal from RE should be made in writing to the head teacher and a record kept of them.

RE Link Governor: Mrs. Roberta Blakemore

Named RE subject leader: Mrs. Keren Elson

Head teacher: Mrs. Christina Lahive

Date: September 2020

Date for review: September 2023

This policy document was adapted from www.natre.org.uk