



Religious Education (R.E.) Policy 2021

ETHOS STATEMENT

Standhill Infants' School is a happy, friendly, welcoming school with a truly inclusive family atmosphere. We put the wellbeing and safety of the children at the heart of everything we do. Children, staff and governors work hard to ensure that everyone can be proud of their achievements. The Standhill family are kind and caring citizens, who celebrate diversity and show respect.

'Religion and beliefs inform our values and are reflected in what we say and how we behave. RE is an important subject in itself, developing an individual's knowledge and understanding of the religions and beliefs which form part of contemporary society. Religious education provokes challenging questions about the ultimate meaning and purpose of life, beliefs about God, the self and the nature of reality, issues of right and wrong, and what it means to be human. It can develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of Christianity, of other principal religions, other religious traditions and worldviews that offer answers to questions such as these. RE also contributes to pupils' personal development and well-being and to community cohesion by promoting mutual respect and tolerance in a diverse society. RE can also make important contributions to other parts of the school curriculum such as citizenship, personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE education), the humanities, education for sustainable development and others. It offers opportunities for personal reflection and spiritual development, deepening the understanding of the significance of religion in the lives of others - individually, communally and cross-culturally.'(Religious Education in School: No-statutory guidance 2010)

Our aim is that the teaching of RE will help underpin our school ethos. Re teaching will encourage children to have enquiring minds, to ask questions and to show respect for the beliefs and cultural values of their direct community and those across the world. 'Discovery RE' our preferred scheme of work adopts an enquiry-based approach to teaching and learning.

The objectives of teaching religious education in our school are to help children:

- develop an awareness of spiritual and moral issues arising in their lives;
- develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other major world religions found in Britain;
- develop an understanding of what it means to be committed to a religious tradition;
- be able to reflect on their own experiences and to develop a personal response to the fundamental questions of life;
- develop an understanding of religious traditions and to appreciate the cultural differences in Britain today;
- have respect for other people's views, and celebrate the diversity in society.

The legal position of religious education

RE is a compulsory subject of the National Curriculum 2010. The local council is responsible for deciding the RE syllabus. For us at Standhill that is 'Nottinghamshire Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE). SACRE publish an agreed syllabus for Re which was updated in 2020.

Withdrawal of all or part of Religious Education

We are committed to inclusive Religious Education and always hope that no parent or carer will wish to withdraw their child/ren from all or part of the subject. Nevertheless, it remains the right of parents /carers to withdraw their child/ren from RE (and / or collective worship) if they wish to. To exercise this right, parents are asked to contact/write to the Head Teacher informing them of the desire to have their child/children withdrawn from all or parts of RE.

Curriculum planning in religious education

We use 'Discovery RE' scheme of work to teach RE from FS 2 to year 2. This scheme has been cross referenced with the Nottinghamshire's Agreed Syllabus. The 'Discovery RE' scheme focuses on Christianity with Buddhism, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism and Sikhism also being covered. Humanist perspectives are also added when appropriate in some enquires. Termly themes have key concepts and key questions on which teaching is based.

Links are also made to:

Personal, social and health education (P.S.H.E.) and citizenship

Through our religious education lessons we teach the children about the values and moral beliefs that underpin individual choices of behaviour. We also promote British values and attitudes required for citizenship in a democracy by teaching respect for others and the need for personal responsibility. In general, by promoting tolerance and understanding of other people, we enable children to appreciate what it means to be positive members of our society. We use 'JIGSAW' the linked scheme of work to teach PHSE in school.

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development

Through religious education in our school, we provide opportunities for spiritual development. Children consider and respond to questions concerning the meaning and purpose of life. We help them to recognise the difference between right and wrong, through the study of moral and ethical questions. We enhance their social development by helping them to build a sense of identity in a multicultural society. Children explore issues of religious faith and values and, in so doing, they develop their knowledge and understanding of the cultural context of their own lives. Stories, Drama, Poetry, Music and Art form key elements in the development.

British values

RE is a key player in developing knowledge and understanding which can lead to tolerance and respect for others and their beliefs. It does not, however, teach children to passively accept, but rather encourages evaluation and critical thinking, equipping them to consider belief positions they encounter.

Mindfulness

The 'Discovery RE' scheme gives opportunity for children to develop mindfulness practices to build children's self-awareness and skill of reflection, thus supporting their Re learning as well as their personal spiritual development.

R.E. and Inclusion

At our school we teach religious education to all children, whatever their ability and individual needs. Religious education forms part of the school's curriculum policy to provide a broad and balanced

education to all children. Through our religious education teaching we provide learning opportunities that enable all pupils to make good progress. We strive hard to meet the needs of those pupils with special educational needs, those with disabilities, the gifted and talented and we take all reasonable steps to achieve this.

Assessment

Children are assessed through specific pieces of work at the end of a block along with teacher assessment and self-assessment opportunities.

