



Abacus Primary School

Religious Education Policy

Written by: Katie Bradley

On:

Reviewed: October 2024

Future Review date: July 2025

Intent:

At Abacus Primary School in RE we want children to have the opportunity to investigate the beliefs and practices of religion and other world views with an open mind and build an understanding of other cultures and beliefs. RE will provide an opportunity to promote an ethos of respect for others and contribute to promoting a positive and inclusive school ethos.

Implementation

The Purpose of this policy

This policy sets out the aims and objectives of Religious Education at Abacus Primary School. We will help all children to develop an understanding of the importance that religion plays in people's lives and how it has influenced history and the growth and development of society.

Roles and responsibilities

Subject leader: Katie Bradley

The subject leaders will

- Coordinate the planning of the RE curriculum.
- Review the medium-term plans which details the unit of work for each term and ensure that complete coverage of the Essex Agreed Syllabus 2022 is achieved.
- Ensure that there is clear progression throughout the school and an increasing challenge as they move through the school.
- Support colleagues in their teaching, by keeping them informed about current developments in RE and provide a strategic lead and direction for this subject.
- Use specially allocated subject time to review evidence of the children's work, and to observe RE lessons across the school.
- Ensure that there are suitable resources to help with the teaching and learning of RE and check that resources are being used appropriately
- Ensure that the RE policy is reviewed at least every two year

Class teachers:

Class teachers will:

- Plan RE lessons based upon the agreed medium-term plans adhering to the Essex Agreed Syllabus 2022 and enquiry questions.
- Make creative links where possible with topics/subjects, but if not possible teach as separate lessons.
- Assess children's work regularly at the end of a unit of work

Governing Body: The Governing Body will monitor the policy and ensure that it is adhered to throughout the school.

How is RE taught across the school

At Abacus Primary School we will use 'Essex Agreed Syllabus 2022' as our new scheme of work. The syllabus builds on an enquiry-based pedagogy but aims to raise expectations of both teachers and pupils in terms of the scholarly study of religion and worldviews. This syllabus is part of an ongoing discourse within the RE community and provides a framework for continued discussion as teachers build their curriculum around this new approach. Our aim is to ignite a curiosity to learn about religions and world views that will help children understand about faiths, beliefs and how religion has influenced the development of society and the community in which we live.

It is a legal requirement that all state schools must teach Religious Education to pupils at every Key Stage. However, it is recognised that parents have a right to withdraw their child from Religious Education in its entirety or in part. If a parent chooses to withdraw their child from Religious Education, then arrangements are made for that child to be withdrawn during the lessons by the class teacher in consultation with the Head teacher and other appropriate educational provision will be made for them.

In the teaching of RE our objectives for all children by the end of Key Stage 2 are:

Communication: Children will be able to communicate and suggest reasons for the similarities and differences in beliefs and teachings, both within and between religions. They should be able to use *religious words and phrase when discussing Christianity and the other main world religions*. Also, they will be able to express their own opinions and beliefs (whether religious or non-religious) and be respectful of the views of others when participating in group discussions.

Independence: Children should have the opportunity to be reflective about their own beliefs, religious or otherwise, that inform their perspective on life and their interest in and respect for different people's faiths, feelings and values. Children should realise their potential to form their own ideas through participating in discussions. They will have opportunities to explore and suggest reasons for their own and other people's views, including religious ideas about human identity and experience. Also children will be encouraged to carry out research into religious topics enabling them to present their work and ideas both alongside their peers and independently.

Engagement: Children should gain enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them. They should be engaged through enquiry led lessons and stimulating activities leading to the awe, wonder and mystery of RE.

Wellbeing: By exploring the concepts of religion and belief and their roles in the spiritual, moral and cultural lives of people in a diverse society it should help children develop moral awareness and social understanding. It should contribute to the development of children's own spiritual development, exploring and enriching their own beliefs and ideas. It also enables pupils to build their sense of identity and belonging, which will help them flourish within their communities and as citizens in a diverse society

Organisation and Planning

At Abacus School we will begin the teaching of religious education in Foundation Stage using the **RE-related early learning goals as set out in the Agreed Syllabus**, enabling them to encounter religions and other world views through learning about special people, books, times, places and objects:-

As the children move into **Key Stage 1** they will build on their earlier learning using the **Essex Agreed Syllabus 2022** as the guidelines for teaching and learning. Teaching and learning will focus mainly on Christianity and aspects of other principal religions. This will enable children to become aware that people in this country and across the world adhere to many different religions, each with their own beliefs, practices, special stories, places of worship, holy men and women, and festivals

At Key Stage 2, children learn about Christianity, other principal religions and Humanism, recognising the impact of religion and belief on individuals and society locally, nationally and globally. They also develop awareness of the fact that many people's beliefs change in the light of teaching and learning.

At all key stages, strong links will be made with the teaching of English. Stories, plays and poems from the Bible and other religious and moral sources will be shared with the children. Religious Education will become a stimulus and a springboard for the development of oracy, writing and for the development of thinking and reasoning skills. Art, design technology and drama will be closely linked with Religious Education as children use these subjects to communicate what they have learnt. On every appropriate occasion, teachers will use first-hand experience, visits, visitors, artefacts, and the local and wider environment to engage children's interest and imagination.

Inclusion

At Abacus Primary School, we teach RE to all children, whatever their ability and individual needs. RE forms part of the school's curriculum policy to provide a broad and balanced education to all children. We strive hard to meet the needs of those pupils with special educational needs, those with disabilities, those with special gifts and talents, and those learning English as an additional language, and we take all reasonable steps to achieve this. When progress falls significantly outside the expected range, the child may have special educational needs. Our assessment process looks at a range of

factors - classroom organisation, teaching materials, teaching style, and differentiation - so that we can take some additional or different action to enable the child to learn more effectively. This ensures that our teaching is matched to the child's needs. We enable all pupils to have access to the full range of activities involved in RE. Where children are to participate in activities outside the classroom (a visit to a Jewish Synagogue, for example, that involves a journey), we carry out a risk assessment prior to the activity, to ensure that the activity is safe and appropriate for all pupils.

Resources

At Abacus Primary School staff can find effective artefacts, posters and resources to support the children's learning from the RE subject boxes in the Intervention classroom. The library also contains a section of RE books and there are sets of both KS1 and KS2 Bibles. There is also a list of emails to support with visits, visitors, artefacts, and the local and wider environment on the Teacher Drive. If teachers would like new or additional resources they should contact the RE leader via email.

Assessment

At Abacus School, children demonstrate their ability in RE through a variety of different ways as set out in the Religious Education Curriculum Map. Younger children might, for example, act out a famous story from the Bible, whilst older pupils might produce a PowerPoint presentation based on their investigation of sacred texts. Teachers will assess children's work in RE by making informal judgements as we observe them during lessons. On completion of a piece of work, the teacher assesses the work and gives the child written or verbal feedback to help guide progress. Older children are encouraged to make judgements about how they might improve their work in the future. The teacher will record the attainment grades awarded at the end of a unit of work on Target Tracker.

We follow the assessment policy as set out by the Essex ExploRE. This sets out the expected level of attainment for pupils at the end of each Key Stage. At the end of each whole unit of work, the teacher makes a summary judgement about the work of each pupil in relation to his or her expected level of attainment. This is recorded on our assessment system. We use these grades as a basis for assessing the progress of the child, and we pass this information on to the next teacher at the end of the year.

RE Leaders keep samples of children's work collected from the Class Curriculum Journals in an RE folder. This demonstrates the expected level of achievement in RE in each year of the school.

Impact

At Abacus School, the teaching and learning of RE will promote excellence and enjoyment. It will have a presence in the ethos of the school through displays, performances, music and assemblies. RE will enable children to articulate their own views about religion and world views, developing understanding and cultivating mutual respect, empathy and tolerance. RE will help equip the children for life in an inclusive society.

When it will next be reviewed: September 2023

Does this policy need to be read in conjunction with any other policy?

Although RE is a distinct subject it makes important contributions to other parts of the curriculum, e.g. PSHE, SMSC as well as developing higher order thinking skills, spiritual development and deep personal development. Where possible creative links will be made with other subjects such as PHSE, English and History.