

Willows Academy Religious Education Policy

Religious Education is to be taught using the Lincolnshire agreed syllabus for Religious Education 2018-2023. Through this, we aim to promote the spiritual, moral, and cultural development of all pupils. Religious Education is a compulsory subject and forms part of the national curriculum.

Parents do have the right to withdraw their child from RE. Where parents are wishing to exercise this right, we would first suggest that the parents meet with the Headteacher to discuss their concerns. If the matter cannot be resolved, parents need to apply to the Governing Body in writing to withdraw their child from RE lessons. The Governing Body will make arrangements with the Headteacher for the child(ren) to be supervised or engaged in another activity during this time.

Aims of the RE Curriculum

RE is an important part of the school curriculum and is taught relevant to the child's stage of development and experience. We seek to provide a clearer idea of what religion is about the importance that it plays in many people's lives and how that faith is expressed in their daily lives and routines. The overall aims are:

- That all children form their own opinions about religious beliefs and customs and that they develop an understanding and tolerance of people who hold a strong faith.
- That children enjoy learning about religion because it is taught in a stimulating and interesting way that arouses their curiosity and develops positive skills and attitudes.
- Children develop a sense of awe and wonder about the world around them.
- Help pupils understand some of the impact of religion throughout the world, its influences on the lives of individuals and communities and its effect on the cultural diversity of their own and other societies both presently and in the past.
- To support pupils spiritual, moral social and cultural development by encouraging self awareness and self respect.
- To help pupils develop their social and moral development by encouraging a positive attitude and valuing the beliefs of others, however different from their own.

Equal Opportunities

Every child is entitled to be taught RE regardless of their age, culture, gender, background or special need or disability. RE develops a balanced view of the multi-cultural society which we live in without compromising the faith, non-faith or cultural background of any pupil.

Health, Safety and Well-Being

Visits to places of worship and other RE related venues are encouraged as an important part of developing a child's understanding of the role religion plays in communities. Prior to all visits, staff will carry out a formal risk assessment, if necessary, visiting the venue prior to creating the risk assessment.

Staff will ensure that the context of the learning that will take place during the visit, will not undermine a child's own faith or challenge their belief and will only be presenting a knowledge base about a faith. Permission will be sought from parents/carers for each child to attend the visit. We acknowledge the sensitivity that some families may have with regard to their child visiting another place of worship, staff must ensure that they do all they can to assure parents and encourage pupil participation.

Teaching and Learning

A variety of teaching methods should be used to teach RE, such as role play/drama, stories and music. Visitors to school should also be encouraged to give children the opportunity to listen to and ask questions about another person's experiences of living/celebrating through different faiths. Many opportunities should be given for thinking, talking, listening and responding to others respectfully. Children should be encouraged to openly discuss their understanding, opinions and attitudes about religion. They should be given time to reflect on what the religious ideas and concepts mean to them and promote their own spiritual growth and development.

Monitoring

In order to ensure continuity and progression, it will be necessary to monitor the teaching of RE across the school. This should be done through liaison with staff to be able to drop in on lessons, monitoring planning and coverage.

Resources

The teachers have been provided with a RE file which includes the coverage required to be taught in their class. It provides suggested content, assessment, links/contacts for further support and the RE defender tool kit. Resources are stored in in the KS1 cupboard.

Programme of study

The coverage will include various units and content alongside festivals/celebrations for that time of year for different religions.

Some of the religions children will learn about include, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism and Judaism.

Opt out

Parents will be sent out a opt out letter along with the policy in July ready for the academic year in September. Parents can withdraw their children from all or part of RE, however we believe it is important for the children to learn about the different religions that exist which will impact on their respect for others and diversity as stated above. Some RE is also covered during SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural Development) and BV (British Values) subjects which are compulsory.

If you do wish to withdraw your child please return to your child's class teacher the-opt out slip and state the area you wish for them to not take part in.

Policy written by Miss Reeder (RE lead)

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Delta Academies Trust

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