



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

2022/2025

Hartlebury Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School



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Hartlebury Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

Introduction

Our policy is founded on the Religious Education in Church of England Schools Statement of Entitlement, February 2019, and underpins our commitment to the teaching of RE.

In line with the Statement of Entitlement we believe a high-quality religious education (RE) curriculum is essential to meet the statutory requirement for all maintained schools to teach a broad and balanced curriculum. At the heart of RE in church schools is the teaching of Christianity; rooted in the person and work of Jesus Christ. There is a clear expectation that as inclusive communities, church schools also encourage learning about other religions and world views; fostering respect for them encouraging all to live well together.

In our voluntary controlled school RE is taught according to the Locally Agreed Syllabus for Worcestershire. We aim to deliver a religious education curriculum that is rich and varied; enabling learners to acquire a thorough knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith and the value systems of the range of faiths and world views studied.

As a Church school we develop an enquiry-based approach to all learning; an approach that through RE engages with sacred texts and helps develop religious and theological literacy. Links with our school's core values and spiritual, moral, social and cultural development are intrinsic to our RE curriculum and have a significant impact on our learners.

RE has a high profile within our school curriculum and learning activities provide fully for the needs of all our learners. We aim to inspire learners by the subject and develop a wide range of higher-level skills, such as reasoning, enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and reflection to deepen their understanding of the impact of religion on the world.

Aims

- To enable pupils to know about and understand Christianity as a living faith that influences the lives of people worldwide and as the religion that has most shaped British culture and heritage.
- To enable pupils to know and understand about major world religions and world views, their impact on society, culture and the wider world; enabling pupils to express ideas and insights.
- To contribute to the development of pupils' own spiritual/philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own beliefs and values.

- To enable all pupils to be religiously literate appropriate to their age and understanding.
- To enable all pupils to give a theologically informed and thoughtful account of Christianity as a living and diverse faith.
- To develop an informed and respectful attitude to religions and world views in their search for God and meaning.
- To engage in meaningful and informed dialogue with those of other faiths and none.
- To reflect critically and responsibly on their own spiritual, philosophical and ethical development.

These aims are conveyed to the children through our RE Aim, which is shared with them and displayed on their books.

Effective teaching and Learning about Religions and World View

We have a duty to provide accurate knowledge and understanding of religions and world views. They include:

- A challenging and robust curriculum based on an accurate theological framework.
- Rigorous assessment that ensures progression in knowledge and understanding of core religious concepts.
- A curriculum that appreciates and engages with the richness and diversity of religious experiences worldwide.
- A pedagogy based on respect; respect of different views and interpretations. One that is based in real dialogue and theological enquiry.
- RE that makes a positive contribution to SMSC development.

Curriculum Balance

Christianity is the major study in our school, with at least 50% of our teaching being with Christian focus. At least 10% of our curriculum time, in Key Stage 2, and 5% in Key Stage 1 is committed to the teaching of RE, through discreet and cross curricular learning.

The Right of Withdrawal from Religious Education

We wish to be an inclusive community but recognise that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from RE on the grounds of conscience. However, the right of withdrawal does not extend to other areas of the curriculum when, as may happen on occasions, spontaneous questions on religious matters are raised by pupils or there are issues related to religion that arise in other subjects such as history and citizenship.

If parents make a request to withdraw their child(ren) from the teaching of RE, the school will, as a matter of courtesy, ensure that the parents are aware of the following:

- The learning objectives covered in RE so that parents can make an informed decision.
- The supervision arrangements that will be in place for child(ren).

We would ask any parent considering this to contact the Head of School to discuss any concerns and anxieties about the policy, provision and practice of RE at our school.

Developing Staff Expertise: Ensuring Success

We have a committed approach to ensuring all staff are confident in teaching RE in a relevant way.

- This subject has a dedicated subject lead - Miss Rebekah Salter.
- All staff have training appropriate to their level of confidence.
- All staff and governors have an understanding of the distinctive role and purpose of RE in our curriculum.
- A Single Point of Contact Governor, Reverend Stephen Winter, has responsibility for RE in school.