

Falconhurst School



Religious Education Policy

This policy was reported to Teaching, Learning and Standards Committee on 14th October 2021 for a period of three years.

Review Date: October 2024

Rationale

Falconhurst School is a Local Authority maintained school, which primarily caters for the local community. Under the Education Act 1996 schools must provide Religious Education for all registered pupils, although parents can choose to withdraw their children. As a school we value the contributions RE makes to the curriculum and to the ethos of the school and we therefore hope that all children and staff will be able to participate.

RE is concerned with developing knowledge, skills and attitudes. It provides the children with opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. It is broadly based on the Christian faith but includes the other major religions of the world.

Aims

Through RE the school aims to promote a caring environment in which every child can:

- Fulfil their own potential as well as developing a sense of respect and tolerance for the religious and moral values of those of other religions.
- Be prepared for the diverse opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.
- Develop their knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other major religions.
- Develop an understanding of the influences of beliefs, values and traditions on individuals and society.
- Reflect upon and ask questions about the world around them.
- Co-operate effectively with others.
- Make reasoned choices and decisions.
- Communicate their ideas and feelings to others.
- Listen with tolerance to the views and experiences of others.
- Accept both themselves and others.
- To have respect for other people's views and to celebrate the diversity in society.
- To develop a positive attitude towards other people, respecting their right to hold different beliefs from their own and towards living in a society of diverse religions.
- Develop a sense of belonging.
- Develop a sense of integrity and take responsibility for their own actions.
- To develop an awareness of spiritual and moral issues in life experiences.

Teaching and Learning of RE

We base our teaching and learning style in RE on the key principles that good teaching in RE allows children both to learn about religious traditions and to reflect on what the religious ideas and concepts mean to them. Our teaching enables children to extend their own sense of values and promotes their spiritual growth and development.

Our teaching and learning styles in RE enable children to build on their own experiences and extend their knowledge and understanding of religious traditions. We organise visits to local places of worship and invite representatives of local religious groups to come into school and visit the children whenever possible and it is safe to do so.

We recognise that all classes in our school have children of widely differing abilities, and so we can provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child.

Curriculum Planning in RE

The planning and teaching of RE is guided by the following:

- The Agreed Syllabus for RE in Milton Keynes (2017).
- Discovery RE Scheme of Work
- Diocese supported website <https://www.odbe.org.uk/>
- The needs and religions of the community.
- First hand experiences as well as ideas shared by others.
- The use of a variety of teaching and learning situations including stories, poems, songs, pictures, visits, artefacts, visitors and drama.
- Knowledge and understanding at the relevant Key Stage to be applied when studying the units.
- Opportunities for children to both learn about and learn from religions.
- Links to the planning for PSHE e.g challenging stereotypes.

We plan our religious education in accordance with The Milton Keynes Agreed Syllabus. We ensure that the topics covered build upon prior knowledge. We offer the children opportunities for children of all abilities to develop their skills and knowledge in each unit, and we ensure that the progression built into our long-term plan provides the children with an increasing challenge as they move through the school.

We carry out curriculum planning in religious education in two phases; long term and medium term; the long-term plan maps the religious education topics studied in each term for each phase over a two-year cycle, whilst our medium-term plan planning gives detail of each lesson for each half-term.

Foundation Stage

We teach religious education to all children in school, including those in the foundation stages classes. Across Early Years, Religious Education is an integral part of learning encountered through making links, noticing patterns, showing curiosity about objects, events and people, using senses to explore the world around them and representing their experiences in play.

Special Educational Needs We believe that all children at Falconhurst School should have equal access to RE so that they have the opportunity to progress and demonstrate achievement irrespective of ability and special educational needs. Where special educational needs are identified, teachers will endeavour to provide such pupils with appropriate opportunities at each key stage, in line with the requirements of the agreed syllabus.

Withdrawal from Religious Education

Religious education at Falconhurst School is an important and integral part of the curriculum. We hope that all parents will appreciate the value, breadth and depth that this subject can bring to their child's development. Parents do, however, have the right to withdraw their child from religious education. This will be done in consultation with the Headteacher and the Governors.

The role of the RE Leader:

- To co-ordinate the teaching of RE within the school.
- To monitor the use of the policy and scheme of work.
- To ensure continuity and progression of the teaching and learning in RE across the key stages and the school.
- To make changes to the policy and scheme of work if necessary following a review.
- To order and maintain resources.
- To make staff aware of changes/thinking in RE.
- To support staff who are less confident with RE.
- To make staff aware of RE courses on offer and encourage them to attend.
- To provide where necessary staff training and development.
- To liaise with religious leaders in the local community.