

# Himbleton CE Primary School and Nursery



***Nurture, Nature, Knowledge:***

***Enabling inquisitive thinkers and inspired learners with  
kind hearts.***

**“Faith, Hope, Love...the greatest of these is Love.” (Corinthians 13:13)**

**“So in everything, do unto others what you would have them do to you.” (Matthew  
7:12)**

**“Wise men and women are always learning, always listening for fresh insights.”  
(Proverbs 18:15)**

## **Religious Education Policy**

**Date Approved: 28<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

**Review Date: April 2023**

The principal aim of religious education is to explore what people believe and what difference this makes to how they live, so that pupils can gain the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to handle questions raised by religion and belief, reflecting on their own ideas and ways of living.

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## **Introduction**

This policy has been written in the light of the Church of England's Vision for Education (Autumn 2016), Valuing all God's Children (Summer 2019) and through reflection on the SIAMS Evaluation Schedule for schools.

## **Legal Position of Religious Education in School**

Religious Education (RE) is unique in the curriculum as it is neither a core or foundation subject. The 1988 Education Act states 'Religious Education has equal standing in relation to core subjects of the National Curriculum in that it is compulsory for all pupils'.

Himbleton C of E Primary School is a Church of England Voluntary Controlled School and therefore follows the Worcestershire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2020 – 2025.

## **The Church of England's Statement of Entitlement**

The Church of England's Statement of Entitlement (February 2019) outlines the aims and expectations for RE in Church of England schools and guides this school's approach to RE.

It begins by stating: 'Religious Education in a Church school should enable every child to flourish and to live life in all its fullness (John 10:10). It will help to educate for dignity and respect encouraging all to live well together'. Quoting from the Church of England's Vision for Education: Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good, it continues: 'Such an approach is offered through a commitment to generous hospitality, being true to our underpinning faith, but with a deep respect for the integrity of other religious traditions (and worldviews) and for the religious freedom of each person'.

## **Religious Education and the school's Christian Vision**

### **The School's Vision:**

"Enabling inquisitive thinkers and inspired learners with kind hearts."

Building on these themes, we believe that our Religious Education curriculum contributes to the outworking of our vision as it has an enormous part to play in developing awareness of the wider world and preparing our children for life beyond Himbleton.

## **Religious Education Intent**

The intent of Religious Education at Himbleton C of E Primary School is to ensure our children have an understating of, and respect and tolerance for the diversity of beliefs and cultures in the world, the impact that this has on the way in which people live their lives and what can motivate action.

## **School Approach to Religious Education**

In-line with all church schools, this school has duty to provide accurate knowledge and understanding of religions and world views.

At Himbleton, we follow the Worcestershire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education. As a Church of England School, we also use 'Understanding Christianity' to ensure that our children have the opportunity to explore Christianity in depth and explore probing questions about life in a safe, secure and respectful environment.

A wide range of imaginative teaching methods and pupil groupings ensure effective RE sessions. We appreciate the positive impact that local faith communities can have on pupils' experience in RE. Therefore, this school encourages visits to places of worship and welcomes visitors from different faith communities. We recognise it is vitally important that teachers demonstrate respectful attitudes towards all faiths, modelling the attitudes and responses we would expect from our pupils.

As identified in the Statement of Entitlement, teaching and learning in RE in this school will provide:

- a challenging and robust curriculum based on an accurate theological framework
- an assessment process which has rigour and demonstrates progression based on knowledge and understanding of core religious concepts
- a curriculum that draws on the richness and diversity of religious experience worldwide
- a pedagogy that instils respect for different views and interpretations; and, in which real dialogue and theological enquiry takes place
- the opportunity for pupils to deepen their understanding of the religion and world views as lived by believers
- a positive contribution to Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development.

## **Organisation & Time Allocation**

In accordance with the structure of Worcestershire Agreed Syllabus, we have agreed that, as a minimum:

- in the Foundation Stage pupils will encounter Christianity and other faiths, as part of their growing sense of self, their own community and their place within it. They will be introduced to a range of faith traditions and will be taught RE for 36 hours over the year
- at Key Stage 1 pupils study Christianity and Judaism or Islam. RE will be taught for at least for 36 hours over the year.
- at Key Stage 2 pupils study Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Islam and also consider non-religious worldviews. RE will be taught for at least for 45 hours over the year.

## **Assessment / Recording & Reporting**

The Worcestershire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2020-2025 sets out a structure for recognising pupil achievements and each pupil can work progressively towards achieving the expected end of Key Stage learning outcomes as outlined in the syllabus.

As a school we track progress in RE through ongoing formative assessment within sessions and a summative assessment at the end of each unit of learning.

School reports are sent home in the Summer term of each year and the RE report is written with reference to assessment records as well as pupils' individual work.

## Responsibilities for RE in School

The Headteacher, Mrs Gemma Martin, has ultimate responsibility for ensuring that the legal framework for RE is carried out and that the teaching of RE fits within the school's distinctively Christian vision. At Himbleton, some of the responsibilities for RE may be delegated to other members of staff.

The Subject Leader, Mrs Sara Hedges, is responsible for:

- ensuring personal subject knowledge and expertise are kept up-to-date by participating in Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for RE and share good practice
- attending RE clusters / hub meetings
- providing and sourcing in-service training for staff as necessary
- ensuring the staff are familiar with the syllabus and supporting resources such as Understanding Christianity
- supporting and clarifying approach to planning, delivery and assessment being clear about the subject's intent, implementation and impact
- acquiring and organising appropriate resources, managing a budget when necessary
- monitoring the teaching and learning of RE through regular lesson observations, work scrutiny, learning walks, analysis of data and pupil voice and being able to discuss impact and standards, all in conjunction with the Headteacher / Senior Leadership Team
- contributing to the SIAMS self-evaluation process, including, but not limited to Strand 7.

The Headteacher and Governors must ensure:

- RE has a high profile within the curriculum
- that the legal framework for RE is upheld within the school
- that all pupils make progress in achieving the learning outcomes of the RE curriculum
- the subject is well led and effectively managed and that standards and achievement in RE and the quality of the provision are subject to regular and effective self-evaluation
- those teaching RE are suitably qualified and trained in the subject and have effective and regular opportunities for CPD
- teachers newly-appointed to church schools are provided with support offered by the Diocese to enable them to become effective teachers of RE
- that clear information is provided for parents on the RE curriculum and the right to withdraw
- RE is resourced, staffed and timetabled so that the school can fulfil its legal obligations on RE and pupils make good progress
- appropriate support is in place to ensure the effective provision of RE.

## **The Right of Withdrawal from Religious Education**

At Himbleton C of E Primary School, 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.

Where 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
- what supervision arrangements will be in place for child(ren).

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

### **Policy review**

- 1.1. This policy is reviewed on an annual basis by the Pupil Support Committee of Governors and the Headteacher.
- 1.2. The scheduled review date for this policy is April 2023.