

Lowerhouses CE Primary School



Religious Education Policy

Working and achieving together to enrich lives and nurture bright futures

Approved – October 2024
Review – October 2027
Person Responsible – RE Coordinator

RE Policy

Intent

At Lowerhouses School, we believe that Religious Education prepares our children for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life. We believe that the teaching of RE underpins our whole school ethos of care by promoting the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of our children.

Through their Religious Education our pupils are taught to understand the teachings of the Christian Faith, along with other world faiths, and understand how they impact on their own lives and those of the wider community.

In Religious Education pupils discover, explore and consider different answers to big questions, in local, national and global contexts, through learning about and from religions and other world views. RE teaching supports our commitment to equality through developing an understanding that all people are unique and special regardless of social class gender, age, belief, social orientation disability or special educational need.

Pupils should gain and develop the skills needed to understand, interpret and evaluate texts, sources of wisdom and authority and other evidence. They learn to articulate clearly and coherently their personal beliefs, ideas, values and experiences while respecting the right of others to differ.

Implementation

RE is taught in accordance with the approved Kirklees Agreed Syllabus and Understanding Christianity, the following religions have been selected for study:

- Christianity
- Islam
- Judaism
- Hinduism
- Buddhism
- Sikhism

The teaching of Religious Education makes a distinctive contribution to the school curriculum as it allows all pupils to explore, understand and express their own response to spiritual and religious approaches to life. Our Religious Education curriculum provides high quality teaching and learning, which in turn enriches the children's learning experiences.

Impact

The children at Lowerhouses School enjoy learning about other religions and why people choose to follow a religion. Through their R.E. learning, the children are able to make links between their own lives and those of others in their community and in the wider world. Through R.E. our children are developing an understanding of other people's cultures and ways of life and worship, which they are then able to

communicate to the wider community. As a result, children show high levels of self-awareness and model respect and empathy for others.

Our children will achieve age related expectations or better in RE at the end of their cohort year demonstrating the required skills of their year group curriculum. Pupils will use acquired vocabulary in lessons across other aspects of the school day and school life. Through discussion and feedback, children will talk enthusiastically about their R.E. lessons and other faith days.

Religious Education curriculum

Religious Education is taught throughout the school from EYFS to Year 6 using the Kirklees Agreed Syllabus 'Believing and Belonging' and the Understanding Christianity schemes of work which are recommended by the Diocese of Leeds. Long term plans for each year group and subject are available on our school website. We value the support given to Religious Education through links with the local and wider community, such as visiting clergy from a range of denominations and other faiths.

Achievement and Progress

We regularly assess progress of pupils in Religious Education, ongoing whilst teaching lessons and formally at the end of a teaching unit. Children are assessed as working at age related expectation, below or above this.

At Lowerhouses, we report to parents on individual pupils' achievement in Religious Education verbally through parents' evenings and formally in a written report at the end of each academic year.

Religious Education lessons

In Key Stage One and Key Stage Two Religious Education is timetabled so that pupils are provided with the equivalent of at least one hour a week (one hour and 15 minutes for Key Stage 2) devoted to Religious Education (in addition to Collective worship). The requirement to teach Religious Education does not apply to Nursery classes but it does apply to children in Reception classes. Early years also enhance their curriculum with themed days and topics linked to Christian festivals and other faiths around the world. Lessons will be delivered in regular timetabled slots, through blocks of time, as a cross-curricular topic or in any combination of these. Lessons are normally taught by the class teacher.

Legal requirements - Withdrawal from Religious Education

Parents have a statutory right to withdraw a child from Religious Education. If a parent is considering withdrawal from Religious Education, we will invite them to meet with the Headteacher and listen to their concerns. We work hard to ensure that any reservations or doubts may be accommodated to avoid withdrawal but recognise that a parent has this right if reservations cannot be resolved. Any formal decision to withdraw should be made in writing to the Headteacher.

The Kirklees Syllabus, along with the Diocese of Leeds requires that a minimum of 5% of curriculum time is dedicated to Religious Education (this is in addition to collective worship).

Enquiries and questions

The school welcomes enquiries or questions about Religious Education. In the first instance parents should contact their child's class teacher.

This Policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies –
Collective Worship Policy