



North Elmham CEVA Primary School  
Stibbard All Saints CEVA Primary School



# Flourish Federation

## Religious Education & Worldviews Policy

This policy was ratified by Flourish Federation Governing Body on:	18 <sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2022
This policy will be reviewed by Flourish Federation Governing Body on: (unless earlier review is required to adhere to statutory requirements/changes in procedure)	JANUARY 2025
Signed by the Chair of Governors:	
Signed by Executive Headteacher	

## Introduction to RE at Flourish Federation

Religious education is unique in the curriculum in that it is neither a core subject nor a foundation subject but the 1988 Education Act states that 'Religious Education has equal standing in relation to core subjects of the National Curriculum in that it is compulsory for all registered pupils'.

We have two schools in our federation and both schools, All Saints Stibbard and North Elmham are Church of England Voluntary Aided schools. In Voluntary Aided schools, Religious Education is the responsibility of the school governors. The governing board of our federation has adopted the Norfolk Agreed Syllabus (currently the 2019 edition). Additional ideas, information and guidance suited to the particular needs of a church school are sought from the Diocese. A close link with our church communities is encouraged so that children can see Christian life, worship and commitments first hand and we make a point of marking the celebrations of the Christian year in each school.

The broad aims of religious education (RE) are set out within the locally agreed syllabus and the Church of England Education Office Statement of Entitlement (2019). The purpose of religious education in all academies is to promote religious literacy. By this we mean that pupils are able to hold balanced and well-informed conversations about religion, worldviews and belief.

Each of our schools is inspected under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005, and it will be inspected under its designation as a Voluntary Aided school. Religious education is reported on through this inspection.

## Aims

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The aims of religious education are to enable pupils to:

- Know about and understand Christianity as a living faith that influences the lives of people world-wide and as the religion that has most shaped British Culture and heritage.
- Give a theologically informed and thoughtful account of Christianity as a living and diverse faith.
- Know about and understand other major world religions and world views, their impact on society, culture and the wider world, enabling pupils to express ideas and insights.
- Show a well-informed, balanced and respectful attitude to religions and world views
- Engage in meaningful and well-informed dialogue with those of other faiths and none
- Reflect critically and responsibly on their own spiritual, philosophical and ethical convictions, exploring and enriching their own beliefs and values.

## Curriculum

The curriculum for RE is designed to ensure religious literacy lies at the heart. A multi-disciplinary approach to curriculum design provides a balance between theology, philosophy and the human/social sciences.

Theology: This examines where beliefs come from, how they have changed over time, how they are applied differently in different contexts and how they relate to each other. For pupils we may describe this as *thinking through believing*.

Philosophy: This is about finding out how and whether things make sense. It deals with questions of morality and ethics. It takes seriously questions about reality, knowledge and existence. For pupils we may describe this as *thinking through thinking*.

Human/Social sciences: This explores the diverse ways in which people practice their beliefs, both now and in the past. It engages with the impact of beliefs on individuals, communities and societies. For pupils we may describe this as *thinking through living*.

These three disciplines provide lenses through which each enquiry question is approached.

In accordance with the structure of the locally agreed syllabus we have agreed that:

- At KS 1 pupils study primarily Christianity and Judaism, with reference made to other principal religions, beliefs and worldviews.
- At KS 2 pupils study primarily Christianity, Islam and Buddhism, with reference made to other principal religions, beliefs and worldview.
- Whilst EYFS does not need to provide RE as a subject, as we have chosen to adopt the local agreed syllabus, there is an expectation that RE is encountered in EYFS through continuous provision. The multi-disciplines will be introduced and Christianity will primarily be studied, some schools may choose to also include festivals from other major religions e.g. Diwali.

In accordance with the Statement of Entitlement (2019), at least 51% of RE curriculum time (the majority) is allocated to the teaching of Christianity. This entitlement is met both through the weekly or blocked teaching of RE, and through additional RE days which focus on an aspect of the Christian Faith.

The use of the resource *Understanding Christianity* particularly supports the development of the theological perspective.

Each school has a curriculum narrative for Religious education that identifies the multi-disciplines, the enquiry big questions and vocabulary linked to the area/unit. This alongside the Norfolk syllabus provides a systematic and progressive curriculum that develop in complexity and builds on prior learning experiences in a meaningful way. It will provide deeper learning rather than excessive subject content.

## Teaching RE

Religious education uses an enquiry-based approach to learning. This is based on the best practice framework in the Norfolk agreed syllabus. This approach enables pupils to focus on an enquiry question which explores aspects of the theological, philosophical and human/social sciences. A range of teaching strategies are used to ensure learning is challenging and relevant including the use of art, music, thinking skills, artefacts and stories.

Where possible we want our pupils to have opportunities to encounter local faith communities through visits to local places of worship or visits from members of local faith communities. Remote Learning will utilise online resources to facilitate virtual visits or visitors to ensure high quality RE is still being delivered.

To encourage these varied and active ways of working, each class has a floor book, where teachers/pupils can record lessons which do not necessarily have a written outcome e.g. through the use of photos, pupil voice etc.

## **Assessment**

Pupils are assessed in terms of how they are making progress in relation to the theological, philosophical and human/social sciences disciplines within RE. In broad terms the following principles have been applied to each aspect in terms of what it means to become more religiously literate:

- Extending knowledge and understanding from the concrete and familiar to the abstract and complex
- Moving from simple ideas and beliefs/concepts to making connections between them and placing these within a bigger picture or meta-narrative
- Demonstrating increasing layers of interpretation of religion, religions, beliefs and worldviews through engagement with a broadening and increasingly complex range of information
- Showing an increasing ability to critically question and form coherent, logical arguments, including increasing recognition of divergences of opinion about and the controversial nature of religion and belief
- Expressing a broadening understanding of diversity in terms of the nature of religion, religions and worldviews

Pupils are assessed using age-related expectations from the Norfolk Syllabus Appendix 2. This is done in a variety of ways e.g. through written activities, role play, art work, discussion... We will be tracking progress on Pupil Asset (from January 2022).

Assessment is regarded as an integral part of teaching and learning and is a continuous process. It is the responsibility of the class teacher to assess all pupils in their class. We assess the children in order to ensure that they primarily get better at RE, we also want to ensure they are making good progress in this subject and use it to plan future work.

In addition, pupils are encouraged to use self-assessment to evaluate their own knowledge and understanding. A comment about their progress is made in the annual report to parents.

## **Monitoring & Evaluation**

The coordinator will monitor RE provision and standards within the schools through observation, looking at work, talking to children and reviewing the curriculum with staff.

The coordinator will consider the professional development needs of the staff through informal discussion, staff surveys and performance management (where appropriate). This is to ensure staff feel they hold a good subject knowledge and are confident to deliver the content and concepts of the RE curriculum in their school.

The coordinator is responsible for contributing to the school's self-evaluation process. In addition, the governing body monitor the role of religious education and its contribution to the Christian ethos of the school.

## **Responsibilities for RE within each school (Principal/Head teachers and Governors)**

As well as fulfilling their legal obligations, the local governing body and head teacher should also make sure that:

- all pupils make progress in achieving the aims of the RE curriculum
- the subject is well led and effectively managed
- 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 regular and effective opportunities for CPD
- where appropriate, pupils have opportunities to take courses leading to an accredited qualification in the subject
- clear information is provided on the school website about the RE curriculum
- RE is resourced, staffed and timetabled so that the school can fulfil its legal obligations on RE and pupils can make good progress
- the school aspires to begin to work towards securing the Religious Education Quality Mark (REQM) as part of the robust self-evaluation of RE in the school

## **The Right of Withdrawal from RE**

The federation and its schools are inclusive communities but recognise that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from religious education on the grounds of conscience. However, the right of withdrawal does not extend to other areas of the curriculum when, as may happen on occasion, spontaneous questions on religious matters are raised by pupils or there are issues related to religion that arise in other subjects such as history or citizenship.

We would ask any parent considering this to contact the head teacher of their school to discuss any concerns or anxieties about the policy, provision and practice of religious education.

We will record any requests of withdrawal from RE and the reasons for this as they are required to report this as part of the Section 48 inspection process.

## **Managing the right of withdrawal**

- Each school will ensure that parents who want to withdraw their children from RE are aware of the RE syllabus and that it is relevant to all pupils and respects their own personal beliefs.
- Parents should be made aware of its learning objectives and what is covered in the RE curriculum and should be given the opportunity to discuss this, if they wish.
- Each school may also wish to review such a request each year, in discussion with the parents.
- The use of the right to withdraw should be at the instigation of parents, and it should be made clear whether it is from the whole of the subject or specific parts of it. No reasons need be given.
- Parents have the right to choose whether or not to withdraw their child from RE without influence from the school, although a school should ensure that parents or carers are informed of this right

and are aware of the educational objectives and content of the RE syllabus. In this way, parents can make an informed decision.

- Where parents have requested that their child is withdrawn, their right must be respected, and where RE is integrated in the curriculum, the school will need to discuss the arrangements with the parents or carers to explore how the child's withdrawal can be best accommodated.
- If pupils are withdrawn from RE, schools have a duty to supervise them, though not to provide additional teaching or to incur extra cost. Pupils will usually remain on school premises.
- Outside arrangements for RE are allowed as long as the LA is satisfied that any interference with the pupil's attendance at school resulting from the withdrawal will affect only the start or end of a school session.

### **Role of the RE Leader**

- To ensure that the RE policy is implemented and to keep up to date with reviews.
- To have oversight of the RE curriculum and keep up to date with local and national changes.
- To monitor, review and update resources.
- To monitor pupil progress and achievement.
- To maintain and build priorities set by the school.
- To develop links with the Church and Diocese.
- To coach, mentor and support teachers in developing their strengths in teaching RE, including planning, arranging and delivering CPD as appropriate.
- To liaise with parents to ensure all children receive their entitlement.
- To undertake the duties and responsibilities set out in the Subject Leader Job Description and review this annually with senior leaders as part of their performance management.

### **Entitlement and Inclusion - EAL, SEN, More Able**

All children are entitled to access a broad and balanced curriculum at an appropriate level. Teachers should include a range of teaching styles and groupings to allow all children to make progress. Every child should be given opportunity to develop their skills independently and in groups, enhancing their own confidence and self-esteem.

### **Resources**

There is a wide range of resources to support the teaching of RE. Each school has its own resources, and some are also available centrally at the Diocesan Resource Centre or through the Diocese website.

### **Parental and Community Involvement**

Parents are encouraged to involve themselves in RE within each school. Parents are invited into the school, subject to any risk assessments in place, e.g. Covid, to look at their children's work, and a report on their child's standard and progress in RE is given out annually. The community is encouraged to support the

teaching of RE through visits and visitors, e.g.: the children visit the church to learn about concepts such as salvation

## **Professional Development**

Whole staff and individual training needs will be identified through the school's self-evaluation process, staff survey and staff appraisal. The aspiration is for each school/the federation to achieve the RE Quality Mark.

## **The contribution RE makes to other curriculum aims**

### *Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development*

Section 78 (1) of the 2002 Education Act states that all pupils should follow a balanced and broadly based curriculum which 'promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, social, mental and physical development of pupils and of society, and prepares pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life'. Examining and exploring religions and beliefs, through the distinct knowledge, understanding and skills contained in RE, is essential to achieving these aims. Exploring the concepts of religion and belief and their roles in the spiritual, moral and cultural lives of people in a diverse society helps individuals develop moral awareness and social understanding.

### *Personal development and well-being*

RE plays an important role in preparing pupils for adult life, employment and lifelong learning. It helps children and young people become successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens. It gives them the knowledge, skills and understanding to discern and value truth and goodness, strengthening their capacity for making moral judgements and for evaluating different types of commitment to make positive and healthy choices.

### *Community cohesion*

RE makes an important contribution promoting community cohesion. It provides a key context to develop young people's understanding and appreciation of diversity, to promote shared values and to challenge racism and discrimination. Effective RE will promote community cohesion at each of these four levels.

## **The federation community**

RE provides a positive context within which the diversity of cultures, beliefs and values can be celebrated and explored. RE provides opportunities to investigate patterns of diversity of religion and belief and forge links with different groups in the local area.

## **The UK community**

A major focus of RE is the study of diversity of religion and belief in the UK and how this influences national life.

## **The global community**

RE involves the study of matters of global significance recognising the diversity of religion and belief and its impact on world issues.

RE subject matter gives particular opportunities to promote an ethos of respect for others, challenge stereotypes and build understanding of other cultures and beliefs. This contributes to promoting a positive and inclusive school ethos that champions democratic values and human rights.

## **Monitoring & Review**

The implementation and impact of the policy will be evaluated through the federation's self-evaluation processes. The policy will be reviewed every three years.

## **Links to Other Policies**

- Teaching & Learning Policy
- Collective Worship