

Religious Education Policy

Autumn 2026

Religious Education Vision Statement

At Southglade Primary and Nursery School the aim of Religious Education is to encourage respect for all beliefs and cultures as well as helping to contribute to the cultural capital that children need to succeed in life. Through weekly lessons and celebration days, children investigate and learn about different religions and worldviews, giving them the knowledge and understanding that they require in order to develop their own ideas, values and identities. This development of critical thinking skills enables the children to thoughtfully discuss and evaluate the religious diversity that they encounter, helping them to develop tolerance and empathy for a world of difference. Cross-curricular links are made wherever possible to inspire and motivate learners.

Aims and Objectives

The aim of Religious Education in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire is that pupils will know about and understand a range of religions and world views. They will express ideas and insights of their own into the significant human questions which religions address, gaining and deploying the skills needed to study religion.

At Southglade Primary and Nursery School, pupils are equipped with knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews, enabling them to develop their ideas, values and identity. They develop an aptitude for dialogue so that they can participate positively in a religiously diverse society. Pupils study religions and worldviews systematically, making progress by reflecting on the impact that these religions and views have on local, national and global life. Pupils gain and deploy the skills needed to interpret and evaluate evidence, texts and sources of wisdom and authority. They learn to articulate clear and coherent accounts of their own personal beliefs, whilst respecting and valuing those of others.

The aims of religious education are to ensure that children:

- Know about and understand a range of religions and worldviews
- Recognise the diversity which exists within and between communities
- Appreciate and appraise the nature, significance and impact of different ways of life and ways of expressing meaning
- Express ideas and insights about the nature, significance and impact of religions and worldviews
- Find out about key concepts and questions of belonging, meaning, purpose and truth • Understand how different communities can live together respectfully

The key skills children will develop include being able to:

- Identify, investigate and respond to questions posed by, and responses offered by some of the sources of wisdom found in religions and worldviews
- Explain reasonably their ideas about how beliefs, practices and forms of expression influence individuals and communities
- Express with increasing discernment their personal reflections and critical responses to questions and teachings about identity, diversity, meaning and value
- Articulate beliefs, values and commitments clearly in order to explain reasons why they be important in their own and other peoples' lives.

The legal requirements of Religious Education

Statutory requirements for RE states that it must be provided and taught for all pupils in school. Teachers may withdraw from the teaching of RE and an application to withdraw must be given in writing to the Head and Chair of Governors. Pupils would not miss out on RE teaching because a teacher has withdrawn from teaching it, alternative provision will be made. Parents are also able to withdraw their child from religious education lessons if they so wish, although this should only be done once the parents have given written notice to the Headteacher and governors. The school does not support selective withdrawal from RE.

Our school RE curriculum is based on the Nottinghamshire Agreed Syllabus 2021-2026 and it meets all the requirements set out in that document. The RE syllabus reflects the fact that religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian and it also considers the teachings and practises of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain. The religious education curriculum forms an important part of our school's spiritual, moral and social teaching and also promotes education for citizenship.

Organising RE curriculum time:

- RE should be taught for a minimum of 5% curriculum time. In Reception and Key Stage One this equates to approximately 50 minutes per week or some short sessions implemented through Continuous Provision. In Key Stage Two the teaching of RE should constitute at least one hour per week.
- RE is legally required for **all** pupils.
- RE is different to assembly.
- RE should be taught in clearly identifiable time.
- There should be coherence and progression across year groups.

British Values and how RE can support them:

Our school code of conduct reflects respect for all, British Values and community cohesion. The following values are incorporated throughout our teaching of RE:

- Learning for diversity

- Reducing intolerance
- Visits and visitors
- Mutual Tolerance
- Respectful attitudes
- Democracy
- Individual Liberty

Teaching and Learning Style

Through a series of progressive lessons, high-quality teaching of RE allows children to know about and understand a range of religions and worldviews. They are taught to be able to express ideas and insights about the nature, significance and impact of religions and worldviews and they gain and deploy the skills needed to engage seriously with religions and worldviews.

Celebration Days

Weekly teaching is also supported through celebration days. Every year there is a whole school celebration day for Easter, Christmas and Eid-al-Adha. These days enable children to further develop their understanding of religious festivals and celebrations. Teaching and learning opportunities are linked to the occurrence of these major festivals when the celebrations are visible.

Enrichment Opportunities

Enrichment opportunities are provided through trips to different places of worship, and visitors into school who share their beliefs and experiences with our pupils.

Curriculum content:

- Progression is made through the acquisition and systematic study of religions and worldviews. Learning in each year group contributes to coherent progression. In Reception the learning is based on curiosity and experience. In Key Stage One this incorporates exploring and discovering, before the final theme of knowing and understanding is explored in Key Stage Two.
- Planning and resources are available to help and support teachers but they are not prescriptive and can be adapted.

Curriculum Planning in Religious Education

We plan our religious education curriculum in accordance with the Nottinghamshire Agreed Syllabus (2021-2026). We ensure that the themes studied build upon prior learning and children of all abilities are able to develop their skills and knowledge across each stage.

Progression ladders

Progression ladders have been created by the RE co-ordinator, which clearly show the progression from Foundation through to Year 6. These are grouped in phases to ensure there is no overlap between year groups and offers an increasing challenge as children progress through school.

Cross Curricular links to the teaching of other subjects

The study themes for the Nottinghamshire Agreed Syllabus in Religious Education frequently lend themselves to cross-curricular teaching approaches. Religious education can be linked to other subjects including Geography, History, Art, PSHE, Music, Science, D & T, RSHE and English but care is taken to ensure that the emphasis on learning about and from religion is maintained.

Assessment and Recording

We assess children's work in religious education by making informal judgments as we observe them during lessons. Work is marked in line with the school's marking policy and we give feedback and offer opportunities for challenge through marking as necessary.

Pupil voice groups

A pupil voice group consisting of two children from each year group takes place each half term. These sessions enable the children to share their own thoughts on RE sessions as well as the termly celebration days.

Monitoring and Review

Scrutiny of RE planning and work is undertaken throughout the school year.

The RE coordinator is responsible for monitoring the standards of the children's work and quality of teaching in religious education. The coordinator is also responsible for supporting colleagues in the teaching of religious education, informing staff about current developments in the subject and for providing a lead for the subject in school. Feedback and areas for development are shared with staff, the Headteacher and Governors.