



**Bowburn Primary School
Religious Education (R.E.) Policy
July 2021**

Our Intention:

"The ability to understand the faith or belief of individuals and communities, and how these may shape their culture and behaviour, is an invaluable asset for children in modern day Britain. Explaining religious and non-religious worldviews in an academic way allows young people to engage with the complexities of belief, avoid stereotyping and contribute to an informed debate"

- Why RE Matters -The RE Council

Religious Instruction'. RE is now a different subject - it is open, broad and explores a range of religious and non-religious world views. It is an academic

subject

NATRE

Religious Education is an academically rigorous subject which makes a distinctive contribution to pupils' overall knowledge. Religious Education contributes dynamically to pupils' education in schools by provoking challenging questions about meaning and purpose in life, beliefs about God, ultimate reality, issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human. In RE pupils learn about religious and non-religious worldviews in order to discover, explore and consider different answers to these questions. They learn to interpret, analyse, evaluate and critically respond to the claims that religious and non-religious worldviews make. Pupils learn to express their insights and to agree or disagree respectfully. Religious Education (RE) enables pupils to appreciate that worldviews are complex, diverse and plural and have influence on individuals, communities, societies and cultures.

Religious Education, that includes religious and non-religious worldviews makes a major contribution to the education of our children at Bowburn Primary School. **RE contributes dynamically to pupils' education by provoking challenging questions about meaning and purpose in life, beliefs about God, ultimate reality, issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human. In RE pupils learn about religious and non-religious worldviews in order to discover, explore and consider different answers to these questions.** It helps pupils develop knowledge and understanding of religion and of the differing religions and non-religious beliefs represented in Great Britain today. As such, RE helps to promote the virtues of respect, tolerance and empathy, which are so important in our diverse society today. RE helps pupils to ask and think about challenging questions raised through the study of religion and enables them to develop reasoning and take part in debate. RE gives significant opportunities for our pupils to think about their own experiences, feelings, beliefs and values. As a result, RE is intellectually challenging, academically rigorous and personally enriching.

RE is provided for all pupils in our school as required by the Education Act 1996. It is taught according to the Durham Agreed Syllabus for RE which is the Statutory Order. In accordance with statutory orders, an Agreed Syllabus must reflect the fact that religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, whilst taking account of

Bowburn Primary School Religious Education Policy July 2021

the teachings and practices of other principal religions represented in Great Britain. The RE we teach is non-denominational and not designed to urge a particular religion or belief on pupils. As such RE is open to all pupils from all religious traditions and non-religious worldviews.

This Syllabus is designed to ensure that pupils learn about a range of religious and nonreligious worldviews throughout their school life.

The word 'worldview' refers to the philosophy of life or approach to life which structures how an individual understands truth and the nature of reality, the meaning and purpose of life and their own place in the world. A person's worldview is likely to influence and be influenced by their beliefs, values, behaviours, experiences, identities and commitments RE makes a significant contribution to our wider school aims and values.

In RE, our children learn about and encounter people from a wide variety of faiths and beliefs. They learn through a variety of teaching styles so that they become independent and resilient through a safe and challenging learning environment. As a result, children develop respect and tolerance for others and learn to embrace their own feelings in a nurturing environment.

Our Implementation of RE:

Organisation of RE

RE is taught by Class teachers and Teaching Assistants. All classes are taught RE throughout the year.

In Early Years Foundation Stage RE is taught through topics.

In Key Stages 1 and 2 individual teachers decide how to organise delivery of RE. Some teach RE in a lesson once a week. Others teach RE in 'blocks of time', for example, 3 afternoons over the half term. However teachers organise their RE teaching, sufficient time is given to the teaching of RE to ensure the programmes of study are covered and pupils can make real progress.

Scheme of Learning

At Bowburn Primary School we have planned Religious Education to ensure children can build up a picture of Christianity and some of the other principal faiths represented in Great Britain.

Children in Early Years Foundation Stage will be introduced to aspects of religions through topics about belonging, times of celebration and special objects, people and books. These topics will use examples from Christianity and other religions, as appropriate.

Bowburn Primary School Religious Education Policy July 2021

Throughout the rest of the primary phase pupils will build up an increasingly clear and detailed picture of:

- Christianity (taught throughout Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2)
- Buddhism (Key Stage 1)
- Islam, Hinduism and Judaism (Key Stage 2).
- Diversity Units (taught throughout Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2)
- Thematic Units (Key stage 2)

These religions are mainly taught in separate units so that pupils do not become confused.

Older children do study some units which help them look at a theme across more than one religion e.g. care for others, the importance of rituals, how religions care for the environment. In these cases, other religions may be discussed, depending on the teachers' judgement of the abilities of the children in the class e.g. Islam.

Children in each year group have the opportunity to build up their knowledge and understanding of Christmas and Easter in the Christian tradition by studying different aspects of these festivals each year.

The RE plan also enables pupils to develop knowledge and understanding of religion in the local area through:

- a study of the different religious communities which exist in the local area surrounding the school (including different Christian denominations)
- the study of northern saints (e.g. Aidan, Cuthbert, Bede, Hild) and their influence on the region.

Additional Information

In Religious Education, pupils have the opportunity to meet people from a wide range of beliefs and traditions and visit places of worship.

At Bowburn Primary School we organise visits to:

- Local churches
- Durham Cathedral
- Places of Worship linked to all religions (mosque, synagogue, gurdwara)

In addition to visits out of school, we invite visitors from different faiths in to school. This is a fantastic opportunity for our children to meet people from different cultures and to enhance their knowledge and understanding of religious and non-religious worldviews. It also actively promotes the fundamental British value of mutual respect and tolerance of other faiths and beliefs.

Right of Withdrawal

In line with the Education Act, parents have the right to withdraw their children from some or all of Religious Education. The Head Teacher will invite parents to discuss their concerns and issues. The school has a duty to supervise children at this time but not to provide alternative work or teaching.

Leadership and Monitoring of RE

Mrs Lisle is the RE Co-ordinator in school. She keeps abreast of any developments in RE, attends the local RE network (Durham) and attends RE courses and conferences on behalf of the school. She updates the Head Teacher, governors and other members of staff of any matters arising in RE and provides some training and resources for staff. She is also responsible for the Long Term Planning in RE in school. She monitors and evaluates RE provision by regularly checking planning, scrutinising RE books and talking to pupils.

Mrs Lisle is happy to answer any questions parents/carers may have about the teaching of RE.