

Perton First School and Nursery



Religious Education Policy

Commitment

The school and its Governors are committed to the teaching of Religious Education as an important subject in its own right and because of the contribution it makes to other aspects of the school's curriculum and ethos.

RE has an important part to play in fulfilling many of the aims of Perton First School and Nursery. We recognise the vital part that RE has to play in the spiritual, moral, social and cultural education of our pupils.

Through RE we teach children about religion and what we can learn from them in order to create religiously literate children. We aim to extend their knowledge of different faiths, especially Christianity, Hinduism and Islam, but using examples of other religions where appropriate.

We aim to help children understand what it means to be a member of a faith community, leading to acceptance of others. In the context of their own experiences, children can reflect on the significance of other faiths and begin to be aware of the larger issues of life such as; where do we come from and who are we?

We do not instruct children in any one faith, by learning from religion and religions, pupils learn about the importance of personal relationships and to appreciate the world they live in.

Pupils at Perton First School and Nursery are encouraged to have thoughtful attitudes and to be considerate towards others.

We encourage links with the local faith communities and other groups in the locality. Members of local Christian churches come into school regularly to lead assemblies and to work with groups or whole classes on specific themes.

Children at Perton First School will also have the opportunity to visit the local church and another further afield during their time at the school.

Entitlement

All pupils on the school roll will receive RE as their entitlement in accordance with legal requirements.

All pupils should be able to feel secure in their study of RE whatever their religious or non-religious tradition of their home. The legal requirement of The Education Reform Act (1988) prescribes for all schools a Basic Curriculum, comprising RE and the National Curriculum. At Perton First School and Nursery we ensure that RE is included among the five core subjects and is taught for approximately 36 hours at Key Stage 1 and for 45 hours at Key Stage 2. In Early Years RE is embedded into planning and the environment to fit in with the seven areas of learning especially through Understanding the World. We provide a balanced and broadly based curriculum to which RE contributes:

- by promoting the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and in society.
- by preparing such pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

The curriculum should enable all young people to become:

- **successful learners** who enjoy learning, make progress and achieve
- **confident individuals** who are able to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives
- **responsible citizens** who make a positive contribution to society.
- **'Religiously literate'** so they can grow in knowledge and understanding of beliefs and practices worldwide whilst also being able to engage and discuss the views of others.

Agreed Syllabus

The school will plan to deliver the Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus in accordance with legal requirements and will provide adequate time and resources to do so.

The current Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education was reviewed in 2016 and then issued to schools to begin to implement. We are required to implement this syllabus.

In consequence, the aims of RE within the SACRE (2016) are that pupils at Perton First School should acquire:

- An increasing core of insightful knowledge concerning religions and beliefs, both in Britain and in more global terms;
- A developing capacity to engage with ultimate questions and formulate their own sense of identity and values;
- A growing range of the social, spiritual and emotional skills and dispositions appropriate to living well in a religiously plural and open society.

We offer pupils learning experiences to ensure coverage of the Agreed Syllabus programmes of learning. The key concepts are:

1. Beliefs teachings and sources
2. Practices and ways of life
3. Expressing meaning
4. Identity diversity and belonging
5. Meaning purpose and truth
6. Values and commitments

Each RE lesson at Perton First School will consist of the following aims derived from the SACRE (2016):

- Explore
- Engage
- Reflect.

These aims underpin the delivery of aims for lessons throughout RE at Perton First School.

Management

The school has a subject leader for RE who is appropriately supported to manage subject development efficiently.

The responsibilities of the RE co-ordinator at Perton First School and Nursery will be to:

- Formulate and update the RE policy
- Formulate the scheme of work for RE in the school; Agreed Syllabus and Perton First School Curriculum for RE
- Order resources and provide support in differentiating within RE
- Monitoring the workings of the syllabus and ensure its implementation throughout the school
- Ensure each year group partake in a religious visit

Staffing

The school will ensure that all staff involved in the delivery of RE are aware of subject requirements and are appropriately supported to teach the subject in an interesting and challenging way.

RE at Perton First School and Nursery is generally delivered by class teachers. We recognise that belief can be a controversial issue and great sensitivity is called for on the part of all staff in handling their own and others' values. The teaching of RE is open to all with appropriate professional qualification whether or not they possess a religious commitment or personal faith; however the teaching of RE cannot be urged upon any teacher unwilling to undertake it.

We encourage a variety of teaching styles and approaches relevant to the different age ranges and abilities in our school. RE is taught in mixed ability groups and whole class teaching will be balanced with differentiated work and outcomes to meet the need of each individual learner.

Accommodation/Health and Safety

Where relevant, appropriate accommodation will be provided to secure the delivery of high quality RE.

We will ensure that all religious artefacts are handled with care. Visits to places of worship will follow the school's policy on Educational Visits. Any visitors to the school will be carefully scrutinised and have DBS clearance where appropriate.

Planning

The school will ensure long term planning shows the Agreed Syllabus is being delivered. Medium term planning will indicate how the attainment targets are addressed.

There are long term and medium plans in place for year groups 1-4. These plans ensure that all attainment targets from the agreed syllabus are covered in each year group. Guidelines are also provided for each unit covered to assist with the levelling of pupils in each unit covered.

Assessment

The school will make the use of the Staffordshire SACRE (2016) 'age related expectations framework assessment' to assess where children are at in regard to the syllabus' three aims. There is an assessment grid for each year group to track attainment for RE throughout the year, broken down into the six key areas.

Transfer Information

The school will provide future schools with 'age related expectations' for each pupil.

We provide information on Pupil Progress to Perton Middle School mainly, plus any other school to which pupils may transfer.

Resources

The school will support the teaching of stimulating and challenging RE with good quality resources. Entrust Schemes of work have been identified for all age groups. To support these, resources are held centrally in the Humanities cupboard in the corridor. Staff will also have an individualised curriculum for their year group which has been carefully designed to be progressive across school for the learning journey of the child. Each year group also has a bank of resources to support their own topics. Staff are able to request new resources each year that will be provided within the constraints of the budget. We aim to provide materials to support RE that reflect the range and diversity of

present-day educational resources. Each half term, every class teacher will be emailed a 'Quote of the Week' PowerPoint to use within circle time and RE lessons to support their teaching.

Monitoring

The subject leader will be supported to monitor and develop the subject in keeping with the school policy.

The RE co-ordinator at Perton First School and Nursery will follow the school monitoring policy and ensure that RE is delivered to pupils in line with the programmes of study. Strategies for monitoring include 'book scrutiny's' and occasional lesson observations. The RE co-ordinator will also lead a staff meeting in helping staff to differentiate more effectively when teaching RE lessons.

Professional Development

The school will ensure that all teachers involved in the delivery of RE will receive professional development matched to their needs.

All staff are able to consult with the co-ordinator for support. The co-ordinator will attend regular Staffordshire updates in Primary RE.

Inclusion

The school will ensure that RE is inclusive in its content and approach.

All pupils are entitled to RE as part of their basic curriculum and positive action should be taken to secure appropriate learning opportunities for both boys and girls. The needs of pupils should be clearly acknowledged in the planning and delivery of RE and careful account taken of the differentiated learning and assessment.

All pupils, regardless of their faith will receive teaching in RE which we hope will equip them for life in a multi-cultural society. The Christian tradition will form a major focus for the study of religion in the school but the knowledge of the richness and diversity of other religious traditions will make a significant contribution towards the development of mutual respect and understanding between cultures.

Withdrawal

Where a request to withdraw pupils from RE is received, the school will ensure that discussions take place and appropriate action is agreed.

All registered pupils at a school are entitled to receive RE. At Perton First School and Nursery RE is non-denominational and taught in accordance with the Local Authorities Agreed Syllabus.

In accordance with the 1988 Education Act, parents have a right to withdraw their child from RE and/or acts of collective worship. Parents are not obliged to state their reasons for this withdrawal.

In this school such a parental request should arise at admission and would be discussed with the Headteacher. During such a discussion the Headteacher would need to address the following points:

- The religious issues about which the parent would object to his/her child being taught.
- The practical implications for withdrawal.

If you have any questions arising from this policy, please see the RE Co-ordinator or the Head teacher and refer to 'The Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education: Statutory Requirements 2016'.