

## Wrenthorpe Academy RE Policy



### Intent

At Wrenthorpe Academy, we believe that it is vital for all our pupils to learn from and about religion, so that they can understand the world around them. Through Religious Education, pupils develop their knowledge of the world faiths, and their understanding and awareness of the beliefs, values and traditions of other individuals, societies, communities and cultures.

We encourage our pupils to ask questions about the world and to reflect on their own beliefs, values and experiences. Our Religious Education curriculum is enhanced further with trips to places of worship in our local area and by inviting in visitors to speak to our children and share Religious artefacts. We use the agreed Wakefield Religious Education Syllabus as the basis for our curriculum.

### Implementation

Staff teach six topics across the year and two of the topics have RE as their curriculum driver. RE is taught as part of a cross curricular topic. Staff take care to display key vocabulary in their classroom which children must strive to spell accurately and to learn the meaning and significance of the words. Each Key Phase plans together to ensure that lessons are planned for progression and depth. At the end of the topic children will take part in a 'Topic Quiz' to assess learning and to encourage children to remember their taught learning. Challenge questions, or 'The Big Questions' are asked for pupils to apply their learning in a philosophical/open manner which encourages debate and allows children to develop their own thoughts and opinions. Trips and visiting experts who will enhance the learning experience are planned where appropriate.

### Impact

Our Religious Education Curriculum is well thought out and is planned to demonstrate progression. If children are keeping up with the curriculum, they are deemed to be making good progress. In addition, we measure the impact of our curriculum through the following methods:

- A reflection on standards achieved against the planned outcomes;
- Tracking of gains in each topic quiz;
- Pupil discussions about their learning and the quality of work completed in books.

### The Aims of RE

Our Principal Aim for Teaching RE: RE explores big questions about life, to find out what people believe and what difference this makes to how they live, so that pupils can make sense of religion, reflecting on their own ideas and ways of living.

The RE Curriculum aims to ensure that all pupils:

1. Know about and understand a range of religions and worldviews, so that they can:

- describe, explain and analyse beliefs and practices, recognising the diversity which exists within and between communities and amongst individuals
- identify, investigate and respond to questions posed, and responses offered by some of the sources of wisdom found in religions and worldviews
- appreciate and appraise the nature, significance and impact of different ways of life and ways of expressing meaning.

2. Express ideas and insights about the nature, significance and impact of religions and worldviews, so that they can:

- 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, including ethical issues
- appreciate and appraise varied dimensions of religion.

3. Gain and deploy the skills needed to engage seriously with religions and worldviews, so that they can:

- find out about and investigate key concepts and questions of belonging, meaning, purpose and truth, responding creatively
- enquire into what enables different individuals and communities to live together respectfully for the wellbeing of all
- articulate beliefs, values and commitments clearly in order to explain why they may be important in their own and other people's lives.

## EYFS

While the statutory requirement for RE does not extend to children under compulsory school age, it can form a valuable part of the educational experience of children in the EYFS. It can contribute particularly to:

- personal, social and emotional development
- communication, language and literacy
- knowledge and understanding of the world
- creative development 5 EYFS are using a new scheme of work that introduces children to the five main religions in the world. It is taught through an interactive, age appropriate computer programme, with follow on activities to support and foster the children's learning and understanding.

RE is incorporated into the curriculum in EYFS through a range of topics and continuous provision throughout the academic year.

## Equal Opportunities and Inclusion

The RE curriculum at Wrenthorpe Academy is committed to providing an inclusive learning environment which ensures all pupils are exposed to the same learning opportunities regardless of their gender, social class, race, special educational needs or disabilities. Teachers across the school use a range of strategies and activities in their RE lessons to ensure inclusion and also to encourage positive behaviour and attitudes towards others. Support for specific individuals is well considered and planned for, with consideration given to how further challenges can be made available for those who demonstrate a requirement for it. All pupils are entitled to access the RE curriculum at a level appropriate to their needs. The academy makes full use of additional adults who are deployed effectively to ensure that identified children are able to make progress in each curriculum area.