



Religious Education Policy 2021

Policy Originator: Headteacher

Status: Non Statutory **Review Period:** Three Years

Date: March 2021 **Next review date:** March 2024

Purpose

Religious Education (RE) enables children to investigate and reflect on some of the most fundamental questions asked by people. Through the teaching of RE at Shalford Infant & Nursery School we develop the children's knowledge and understanding of not only Christianity but also of other world religions. We encourage children to reflect on what it means to have a faith and to develop their own spiritual knowledge and understanding. We help the children learn from religions as well as about religions.

Aims

The aims of Religious Education at Shalford Infant & Nursery School are to allow children to:

- Develop an awareness of spiritual and moral issues in life experiences;
- Develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other major world religions and value systems found in Britain;
- Develop an understanding of what it means to be committed to a religious tradition;
- Develop an understanding of religious traditions and to appreciate the cultural differences in Britain today;
- Develop an understanding of religious celebrations and important events within religions;
- Be able to reflect on their own experiences and be able to make reasoned judgements about religious issues;
- Have respect for other people's views and to celebrate the diversity in society.

Through this policy the school endeavours to meet the statutory requirement contained in the 1988 Education Reform Act. Religious Education is compulsory for all children, including those in the EYFS who are less than five years old.

The RE syllabus should reflect the fact that the religious traditions in the United Kingdom are in the main Christian and that it should at the same time take account of the teachings and practices of other major religions.

It is also our aim that children and families within our school community should be given the opportunity to share their beliefs and experiences.

Our RE curriculum supports pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development and also

children's understanding of fundamental British Values.

Organisation, Planning and Evaluation of Religious Education

At Shalford Infant & Nursery School, we plan our religious education curriculum in accordance with the Surrey Agreed Syllabus. We ensure that the topics studied in religious education build upon prior learning and we offer opportunities for children of all abilities to develop their skills and knowledge in each unit. We plan for Religious Education in three stages: long, medium and short term.

Religious Education is largely taught as a discrete subject and sessions are identified on KS1 class timetables as 'R.E'. At other times we teach Religious Education topics in conjunction with other subjects and some of our medium term plans may have a particular link to a historical, geographical or PSHE focus.

In the EYFS, opportunities for Religious Education are taught as part of developing children's knowledge of the world and through opportunities for PSED development. To inform our EYFS planning we use the EYFS Curriculum Development Matters document (especially guidance for PSED and Understanding the World).

Assessment

The school monitors pupils' learning against the key objectives within the Surrey RE Agreed Syllabus and keeps whole class records of assessment, completed on a termly basis. These are shared with parents in annual reports.

Special Needs

All pupils should have the opportunity to explore religious experiences and find meaning in their own way. Religious Education starts from the pupils' own experiences and encourages them to explore and find out more.

Right to Withdraw

All parents and carers have the right to withdraw their children from Religious Education wholly or partially; although this should only be done once the parents or carers have given written notice to the school. All staff, including the Headteacher, have the legal right to withdraw from teaching Religious Education but only after they have given notice of their intention to the school's Local Governing Body. Should this occur the Headteacher remains responsible for finding someone suitable to organise and teach Religious Education.