



Herne Bay Junior School

Religious Education Policy

Policy Agreed: Jan 2025

Review Date: Jan 2026

Legal Requirements

Religious Education at Herne Bay Junior School is provided in line with and meets statutory requirements, which are that:

- the curriculum for every maintained school shall comprise a basic curriculum which includes provision for religious education for all pupils registered at the school
- the religious education programme must reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian whilst taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religious traditions represented in Great Britain, including non-religious views
- the religious education provided shall be in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus for Kent.

Aims of Religious Education

Within the framework of statutory requirements and those of the locally agreed syllabus, our aims in RE are:

- to enable each pupil to explore our shared human experience and the questions of meaning and purpose that arise from our experiences
- to develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of religion through exploration of the beliefs and practices of the principal world faiths represented in Kent and Great Britain
- to affirm each pupil in her/his own family tradition, religious or non-faith, and through that to promote awareness, respect and sensitivity for the traditions of other people
- to provide opportunities for the cultivation of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- to support pupils in reflecting and thinking about fundamental human beliefs and values so that they develop a personal framework by which they can live

We work to the Kent Agreed Syllabus for RE and recognise the variety of religious and non-religious families from which our pupils come. We welcome and celebrate this diversity, are sensitive to the home background of each child and work to ensure that all pupils feel and are included in our RE programme. We are pleased to have the support of members of local faith communities; we enjoy good relationships with them and encourage them to make positive contributions to the school and RE when appropriate. We recognise the importance of pupils' all-round personal development and the leading role that RE plays in contributing to the spiritual, moral social and cultural elements.

School specific information

The subject leader for RE is responsible for leading, managing and monitoring all aspects of the subject to secure high standards of attainment and achievement in RE.

A detailed scheme of work, based on the agreed syllabus is in place and is currently being developed in order to make the most of any useful links to topics, however most of the syllabus is delivered through discrete unit plans. Pupils learn about Christianity throughout the key stage and study other world faiths such as Islam and Judaism and Hinduism alongside this.

Time allocation follows the recommendations of the Agreed Syllabus and the QCA National Framework guidance, both of which recommend a minimum of 45 hours at Key Stage 2.

Our policy and practice use a breadth and variety of teaching and learning styles in RE to engage pupils positively and actively with the subject content. Thus, we aim to increase the use of, for example, art, drama, ICT, speaking and listening activities, audio-visual materials, posters, photographs, display work and visitors/visits to/from faith communities.

We report on pupils' progress and attainment in RE to parents at the end of the key stage as required by law. This is alongside other curriculum subjects, based on regular monitoring of work using the level descriptors within the Agreed Syllabus.

Withdrawal

We acknowledge the rights of parents to withdraw their child(ren) from RE and those of teachers* to withdraw from teaching the subject. We aim to provide an open and inclusive curriculum which can be taught to all pupils, by all teachers. We do not, therefore, anticipate any requests for withdrawal. We do, however, have a procedure in place to deal with any questions or concerns from parents about RE or withdrawals which should, in the first instance, be raised with the subject leader, then referred to the Headteacher. (There are no pupils withdrawn from RE at present).

Prevent Duty

Since July 2015, schools and a range of other public bodies have a legal responsibility to give due regard to the need to prevent children and young people from being drawn into terrorism. This is known as the Prevent duty and is part of the schools wider safeguarding. Herne Bay Junior School has a clear policy in place for protecting children at risk of radicalisation. This can be found on the school website and is part of the schools overarching safeguarding policy.