



The Willows School

## Religious Education Policy

<b>Date Published</b>	<b>September 2021</b>
<b>Version</b>	
<b>Approved Date</b>	
<b>Review Cycle</b>	
<b>Review Date</b>	<b>September 2023</b>

An academy within:



“Learning together, to be the best we can be”

# 1. Aim of the policy

Religious Education (RE) is an important element in the broad and balanced curriculum we aim to provide at The Willows School. Through our RE curriculum based on the SACRE Rotherham syllabus we provide opportunities to develop a pupil's knowledge and understanding of world religions and reflect on the challenging questions that it provokes.

The aims of religious education are:

To develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other religions and consider how the beliefs of others impact on their lives and the lives of others. Here at The Willows Religious Education is taught to allow pupils to build on their experiences through:

## **The intent**

To introduce pupils to a developmentally appropriately wide scheme of work that has a varied approach to Religious Education. Pupils will be engaged, inspired, challenged and encouraged. They will be equipped with the knowledge and skills to:

- Ask and answer challenging questions
- Explore different religious beliefs, values and traditions
- Develop an understanding of the differing religious traditions, beliefs and practices that are followed in our multi-cultural society.
- Recognise the right of people to hold diverse beliefs and values and to develop positive attitudes of respect towards other people
- To benefit from opportunities to enhance their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

## **The implementation**

RE is an entitlement for all pupils and the school plans lessons to link with the termly topics. The curriculum is designed and based on the demographic of the Rotherham area. The following religions have been selected:

- Christianity
- Islam
- Judaism

- Hinduism

The curriculum allows for experiences in school and out through:

- Termly topics, topic days, school council, assemblies, clubs, sports, trips, visits and visitors, workshops, fund raising, and community links.
- Use of a bespoke curriculum that meets the needs of all learners, where upper school pupils RE is embedded in the PSHE curriculum to allow pupils to make links with modern day England.
- Promoting respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs through trips and visitors into schools to deliver engaging activities to pupils.
- Valuing the religious background of all members of the school community to encourage individuals to share their own experiences with others freely.

### **The impact**

Through Religious Education learning at The Willows School, pupils will be able to:

- Make links between their own lives and those of others in their community and in the wider world.
- Understand how other people choose to live and why they choose to live in that way, accepting differences and challenging their views.
- Recognise and identify their own emotions which will help them to modify their responses to situations in a measured and successful way to be respectful and tolerant members of our society.
- The School promotes learning, personal growth and maximise the development of every pupil through AQA unit awards.

## **2. Legal Requirement**

RE is a statutory part of the basic curriculum in all maintained schools. In special schools the legal requirement to provide Religious Education is varied by section 71(7) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998: special schools should provide RE 'so far as is practicable', with all children taking part unless withdrawn by their parents.

At The Willows School we strive to have good practice for Religious Education in school by:

- taking into account the needs of pupils when planning the RE curriculum.

- adapting the RE curriculum to suit the needs of pupils by, for example, choosing content from the age group below the actual age of the learners.
- selecting aspects of RE which connect with the lives and experiences of learners with special needs, appropriate to their abilities and understanding.

Religious Education at the Willows allows pupils to develop the fundamental and pre-requisite skills for all future learning, balancing the needs of the pupils against the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum. It takes into account prior learning and next steps to ensure progress in subject specific knowledge, skills and understanding and promote future learning; allowing for pupils to learn about and build on the understanding of mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith thus pupils gain skills, knowledge and the understanding they need to be able to function in society as responsible citizens in modern Britain. The RE curriculum also identifies other British values links for each unit and is checked termly by the RE subject lead. As teachers we know and understand from experience how each pupil learns best within their class through the sharing of information and careful analysis of activities and learning styles to meet the needs of all our pupils, in cross curricular ways. The Post 16 curriculum focuses on developing pupils' ability to make choices and decisions about their lives, and developing the confidence, skills and independence, attitude and communication skills to succeed as young adults in modern Britain.

The Willows RE curriculum is bespoke and covers religions that are personal to pupils which allows them to develop their own identities, ideas and values. Pupils are given the opportunity to participate in lessons and learn from each other. This provides them with an understanding of the communities they live in. It reflects the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, whilst taking account of the teachings and practices of the other principal religions represented in Rotherham and Great Britain. Termly RE subject meetings are held with all teachers involved in teaching RE either as a discrete lesson or through PSHE/PSD to ensure that learning outcomes are clear and relevant, following RE long-term plan. Pupils in years 9 and 11 have the opportunity to work towards appropriate Pre-Entry or Entry Level Qualifications (AQA Units). These qualifications are used to accredit pupils' learning and achievements in Religious Education.

### 3. Assessments

The Willows School's bespoke assessment tool:

- Provides pupils with opportunities to show what they know, understand and can do.
- Helps pupils to understand what they can do and what they need to develop, therefore identifying next steps and advances the learning process.
- Recognises that the National Curriculum does not encompass all learning.
- Relates to the learning objectives and is designed to meet the needs of the pupils at The Willows School.
- Enables all RE teachers to plan more effectively.
- Provides the subject lead and the school with information to monitor, evaluate work and set appropriate personalised targets.

This assessment is to be stored by the RE Co-ordinator in the RE evidence file so that progression can be:

- (i) monitored;
- (ii) used as the basis for assessing the progress of each pupil;
- (iii) used for setting next steps and new goals; and
- (iv) for passing information on to the next teacher at the end of the year.

### 4. Resources

At The Willows we have a wide range of resources to support the teaching of RE. There is a budget available for other resources to be purchased, where necessary, and for the funding of relevant educational trips such as visiting a place of worship.

### 5. Right of withdrawal

According to the Education Act 1996 and the School Standards and Framework Act 1988 parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of Religious Education lessons. From September 2020 parents have been informed of this right through the school website.