



R.E Policy

Review Date September 2023

Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day; Working Together



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Introduction

Crabtree Farm Primary is made up of staff and pupils who originate from different nationalities, cultures and faith groups. As a school, we aim to celebrate this diversity and offer a welcoming and inclusive environment for all our pupils, including new arrivals and non-native English speakers.

We believe that Religious Education provides an opportunity to celebrate and foster awareness of differences within our school and the wider world. It is a subject that celebrates diversity and challenges stereotypes.

Religious Education is taught in our school because it makes: “a major contribution to the education of children and young people. At its best, it is intellectually challenging and personally enriching. It helps young people develop beliefs and values, and promotes the virtues of respect and empathy, which are important in our diverse society. It fosters civilised debate and reasoned argument, and helps pupils to understand the place of religion and belief in the modern world”. (RE: realising the potential, Ofsted 2013).

This RE policy is informed by current national guidance:

- RE in English Schools: Non-statutory guidance 2010 (https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/190260/DCSF-00114-2010.pdf)
- RE: realising the potential Ofsted 2013 (www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/religious-education-realising-potential)
- A Curriculum Framework for RE in England, REC 2013 (<http://resubjectreview.recouncil.org.uk/re-review-report>)

Legal Requirements

The National Curriculum states the legal requirement that: “Every state-funded school must offer a curriculum which is balanced and broadly based, and which:

- Promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society, and
- Prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.”

In accordance with this, we provide religious education for all pupils registered at the school. As a suggested rule, the teaching of RE comprises 5% of the curriculum timetable as required by the Agreed Syllabus and recommended by the QCA.

Key Stage 1: 36 hours of tuition per year- e.g. 50 minutes a week.

Key Stage 2: 45 hours of tuition per year- e.g. 1 hour a week.

Curriculum time for Religious Education is distinct from the time our school spends on collective worship or school assembly. Parents/carers are informed in the school’s admission paperwork that they have the right to withdraw their child from celebratory Religious Education. Parents/carers who choose to withdraw their



children from celebratory Religious Education are required to state this in writing to the Head Teacher.

The aims of our RE, using the Nottinghamshire Agree Syllabus

In our school, we want our children to understand the importance and value of religion and belief, especially those in our school and community.

By following the Nottinghamshire 'RE for All' Agreed Syllabus at Crabtree Farm Primary school, we intend that the main aims of the Religious Education curriculum are:

- To ensure our children have a Religious Education in line with the statutory requirement in the National Curriculum.
- To adopt an enquiry based approach, beginning with the children's own life experience before moving into learning about and from religion.
- provoke challenging questions about the meaning and purpose of life, beliefs, the self, and issues of right and wrong, commitment and belonging.
- To develop children's knowledge and understanding of Christianity, other principal religions, and religious traditions that examine these questions, fostering personal reflection and spiritual development.
- To encourage children to explore their own beliefs (religious or non-religious) and enable them to build their sense of identity and belonging, as citizens in a diverse society.
- To teach children to develop respect, empathy, generosity and compassion for others and help to challenge prejudice.
- To prompt children to consider their responsibilities to themselves and to others, and to explore how they might contribute to their communities and to wider society.

Visits and visitors

Visits to places of worship are incredibly important at Crabtree Farm Primary as they contribute well to community cohesion. We believe that every child should experience the world beyond the classroom as an essential part of learning and personal development. The aim is for each year group to have a religious visit out/ visitor in at least once a year.

The Scheme of Work

'RE for All' covers all areas of RE for the primary phase, Christianity plus one other religion is taught in Key Stage 1, while Christianity plus up to 3 other religions is taught in Key Stage 2. RE is taught in 4 half-termly units, but these can span across multiple half terms. As a school, children will encounter the following religions throughout their time at the school – Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism and Sikhism. KS2 will also spend time thinking about and comparing religions with non-religious groups, such as Humanism. The focus religion for a topic varies from year group to year group. Major religious festivals will be covered by different year groups, with the exception of major Christian festivals, which all year groups will look

at during assemblies and lessons. Christmas is in autumn 2 and Easter in spring 2 half terms.

Teaching and Learning

'RE for All' brings together learning about and from religion, questioning and spiritual development in a comprehensive scheme of learning. Teaching strategies are varied and are mindful of preferred learning styles and the need for differentiation. Each enquiry starts from the children's own life experiences using these as a bridge into the investigation of the religion being studied.

Learning is assessed and children have the opportunity to express their own thoughts and beliefs and empathise with believers of that religion or belief position. At Crabtree Farm, we incorporate and encourage learning through a number of different ways, utilising different skills to showcase learning. RE lessons can include discussion, role play, art, drama, creative writing and group work.

Differentiation/Adaptation/SEND

'RE for All' is written as a universal core curriculum provision for all children. Inclusivity is part of it's philosophy. Teachers will tailor each enquiry to meet the needs of the children in their classes. To support this differentiation, many enquiries suggest creative learning activities that allow children to choose the media with which they work and give them scope to work to their full potential. To further help teachers differentiate for children in KS1 and 2, each enquiry has exemplars for those children working towards the learning objective, at the expected level for this age group and those working beyond the expected level of achievement. RE allows children a calm, peaceful space to consider their own thoughts and feelings. It also allows those with EBD (Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties) to address deep issues of concern in helpful ways through exploring spiritual material and seeing how others have tackled difficult experiences.

Early Years Foundation Stage

In line with the Statutory Framework for EYFS, RE will have some links to preparing the children for the curriculum taught in Year 1 and upwards. The EYFS seeks to provide '*equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice, ensuring that every child is included and supported*'. This philosophy matches the way that RE is promoted throughout Crabtree Farm. One of the main overarching principles of the statutory framework is that '*children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships*', which again follows a main focus of RE in our setting.

EYFS has seven areas of learning and development requirements. One of these, Understanding the World, links to the RE curriculum taught in Key Stages 1 and 2. The guidance states '*Understanding the world involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community.*' Helping children in EYFS to form and develop their understanding of other groups of people in their community will foster social skills development, as well as build important life skills such as empathy.

Recording, Marking, Assessment and Reporting Management

Teachers are eager to ensure children are making progress with their learning throughout their RE. Therefore, each topic has built-in assessment. This task is the formal opportunity for teacher assessment of the children's knowledge of that religion, depth of critical thinking, and ability to answer the enquiry question(s). This stand-alone evidence is used in conjunction with other evidence such as records of discussions and annotations from other lessons within the enquiry to assist the teacher in assessing whether a child is working at the expected level or towards or beyond it. Children are assessed over three aspects of learning:

- a personal resonance with or reflection on the material/religion being studied to answer the enquiry question.
- knowledge and understanding of the material/religion being studied to answer the enquiry question.
- evaluation/critical thinking in relation to the enquiry question.

These are tracked throughout the planning stage so that teachers can utilise the appropriate evidence accordingly. In line with non-statutory guidance issued by the RE Council in 2013 (cited on page 1) descriptors of these aspects utilise age-related expectations of working towards, working at the expected attainment and working beyond.

Recording and tracking progress

To support the teacher in tracking each child's progress throughout the year, there is an overview sheet for each topic on which to record the progress of the whole class. This supports teacher overview and facilitates subject leader monitoring and moderation.

Reporting to Parents/Carers

The assessment process described above helps teachers report to parents/carers. 'RE for All' enquiries give teachers meaningful evidence to cite in reports.

External contributors

RE gives particular opportunities to promote an ethos of respect for others, challenge stereotypes and build understanding of other cultures and beliefs. This contributes to promoting a positive and inclusive school ethos that champions democratic values and human rights. The British Values agenda is intrinsic to RE and a map of coverage is available on request.

External contributors from the community, e.g. local clergy, local members/speakers from other religions etc make a valuable contribution to the RE programme as do visits to places of worship. Their input is carefully planned and monitored so as to fit into and complement the programme.

Teachers are always present during these sessions and remain responsible for the effective delivery of the RE programme.

The Learning Environment

Establishing a safe, open and positive learning environment based on trusting relationships between all members of the class, adults and children alike, is vital. To enable this, it is important that respect for each others' views and beliefs and those of the believers of that religion is encouraged at all times and that any artefacts are handled with respect and care.

Involving parents and carers

Crabtree Farm Primary school believes that it is important to have the support of parents, carers and the wider community for the RE programme. Parents and carers are/will be given the opportunity to find out about and discuss RE through:

- Response to RE comments on reports
- Curriculum newsletters
- Displays
- Admission paperwork

Resources

Resources are stored in a central place and are used by all staff to support the delivery of the RE curriculum.

Supporting Documents

Religious Education for All, the agreed syllabus for RE in Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire 2021-2026

Religious education in English Schools: Non-statutory guidance 2010, published by the DfE:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/190260/DCSF-00114-2010.pdf

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