

Hazlemere Church of England Combined School



Religious Education Policy

2023-26

***“Encourage one another and build one another up”
1 Thessalonians 5:11***

Headteacher

Signed on behalf of Governing body

Last reviewed

Next reviewed

Our Theologically-Rooted Christian Vision

***“Encourage one another and build one another up”
1 Thessalonians 5:11***

The vision of our staff and governors and all involved in our school, is that we uplift and support each other to be the best versions of ourselves; to enable one another to flourish and to use our talents to serve and praise God.

Looking around our school, one can be in awe of how God has bestowed each one of us with a special gift. Some already know what that is; some need encouragement to unlock it.

Our broad and balanced curriculum places equal emphasis on all areas of learning, because we know, within our context, there are children who flourish in aspects other than Maths or English, or have passions and interests that can be shared and celebrated.

We see our role as providing a well-rounded education which enables each and every child to flourish academically and physically, emotionally and spiritually, socially and morally.

As a Church school, the Bible and its teaching create the inspiration for all aspects of our work. Our Vision is inspired by Paul's words recorded in his first letter to the Thessalonians (5:11)

'Encourage one another and build one another up'

At Hazlemere Church of England school, our six school values are the pillars that support our school vision. Each value is underpinned by the Christian Faith and we focus on one particular value per half-term. It is our hope that children, families and colleagues will take this with them as they continue their journey through life, encouraging others along the way.

Ambition Honesty Kindness Love Perseverance Respect

Legal Requirements

Our school curriculum for Religious Education meets the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act and the Education Act 1996:

- RE is part of the basic curriculum of the school, as set out in the Education Reform Act 1988, and is recognized as a part of the Core entitlement. It must be taught to all pupils from being enrolled in statutory education at five.
- If a parent asks that a child should be wholly or partly excused from the Religious Education at the school, then the school will comply and the child will take part in alternative lessons.
- The acts also allow teachers to refuse to teach religious education, but only after they have given due notice of their intention to the school governors.
- The relative content devoted to Christianity in the syllabus should predominate.

The responsibilities of Governors and Headteachers

Governing bodies and Headteachers must:

- Ensure that RE is provided as part of the school's basic curriculum, following the locally agreed syllabus, unless they are schools with a religious character who are free to choose the syllabus they follow
- Provide sufficient time for the school to fulfil the requirements of the locally agreed syllabus; SACRE recommends a minimum of five percent of curriculum time or 14 hours each term
- Ensure that the delivery of the RE curriculum is monitored by the subject leader, the Senior Leadership team and by governor visits

Our Aims for Religious Education:

- To apply an understanding of Christianity to make reasoned and informed responses to life issues and moral choices.
- To develop knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith and the Anglican tradition through the study of: God, Creation, Fall, People of God, Incarnation, Gospel, Salvation and the Kingdom of God.
- To develop some knowledge and understanding of other principal religions, particularly those represented in their community.
- To apply an understanding of religion to develop sensitivity and respect towards all people.
- To develop the ability to reflect on and communicate with other issues of truth, belief and faith.
- To understand the nature, role and influence of religion in the world.
- To develop an understanding of religious faith as the search for and expression of truth, and so to consider important human questions, values and concerns.
- To formulate reasoned opinions and arguments.
- To promote understanding of and respect for people with different beliefs and life-styles.
- To contribute to the development of pupils' own spiritual/philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own faiths and beliefs.

The Religious Education Syllabus:

At Hazlemere Church of England School, we follow the Buckinghamshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education. As a school, we use the Oxford Diocese Board of Education scheme of work to meet these requirements. The current Agreed Syllabus provides the aims, objectives and structure

for planning learning in RE. It specifies broadly what must be taught, whilst allowing for professional judgement to determine the detail, order and methods used. It also specifies the principles of assessment to provide a coherent structure for planning, progression, reporting and target setting.

Throughout each unit every half-term, the children will be presented with an enquiry question. They will start by exploring and identifying their own meaning to the question by reflecting on their own experiences and self-concepts. Children will then have the opportunity to investigate, reflect and respond to different religions or worldviews responses to the question, before applying this by giving an informed and justified response to the enquiry question.

Across the school, all year groups will cover three units with a Christianity focus (following Understanding Christianity resources materials). Children will then explore further one other religion;

- Key Stage 1 – Judaism
- Lower Key Stage 2 – Hinduism
- Upper Key Stage 2 – Islam/Non-religious Worldviews

At Hazlemere Church of England School, we value all religious and non-religious views and therefore the children have the opportunity to explore beliefs through carefully planned visits, visitors, assemblies and specialist days.

The school has added the Hazlemere Foundation Unit, which is taught annually at the beginning of the school year.

Learning about Religion

This includes enquiry into, and investigation of, the nature of religion. It focuses on (i) beliefs, teachings and sources, (ii) practices and ways of life and (iii) forms of expression. It includes the skills of interpretation, analysis and explanation. Pupils learn to communicate their knowledge and understanding using specialist vocabulary. It includes identifying and developing an understanding of ultimate questions and ethical issues.

Learning from Religion

This is concerned with developing pupils' reflection on, and response to, their own experiences and learning about religion. It develops pupils' skills of application, interpretation and evaluation of what they learn about religion, particularly questions of (i) identity and belonging, (ii) meaning, purpose, truth and (iii) values and commitments, and communicating their responses.

Assessment in Religious Education:

Children's learning and understanding is assessed formatively throughout the teaching of RE, through observation of children at work, by listening to children's responses and marking children's ongoing work in books. At the end of each topic class teachers assess the work of each child according to age appropriate expectations.

Each class also records evidence of learning and discussion in their own 'Class RE book', allowing for collaborative and creative opportunities and in depth, reflective discussions.

Monitoring and Self-Evaluation:

The school's provision for Religious Education forms part of the ongoing evaluation schedule by the governing body. The school uses the SIAMS toolkit to support its self-evaluation of the impact of RE teaching. Monitoring is conducted through planning and book scrutiny, pupil voice, staff surveys and learning walks, in order to monitor outcome and progress.

Religious Education is regularly reviewed to ensure pupil entitlement to the National Curriculum and the effectiveness of teaching and learning, in order to provide support for the development of the subject where appropriate.

Timetable:

Religious Education is taught for a minimum of one hour each week. Religious Education has a high status within the school and it often forms the basis for cross curricular project work across the school. These lessons contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils, which is a core principle of the education provided by Hazlemere CE School.

Right of Withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from religious education and collective worship as identified in the Education Act 1944 and in subsequent legislation. Hazlemere is a Church of England Voluntary Aided primary School where Christian values and principles underpin the whole curriculum. In order to preserve the distinctiveness of this church school community, we encourage everyone to be involved in the religious education and collective worship. Parents who have concerns about this should discuss them with the Chair of Governors and the Headteacher before their children are admitted to the school.