

Policy & Procedure

Thornton Primary School



Religious Education & Collective Worship Policy 2023-2026

This policy is reviewed every three years and was agreed by the Governing Body of Thornton Primary School in Autumn 2023 **and will be reviewed again in Autumn 2026**

Signed: _____ Chair of Governors

Date: _____

Non-Statutory Policy

Our aim is to develop confident and enthusiastic learners who are always respectful of each other and the staff. We want them to build a strong appreciation of their own positive attributes as well as those of the other children and, in doing so, to develop a 'can-do' attitude to learning, and the community in which they live, through consistent focus upon:



Excellence
Independence Enthusiasm Equality

Responsibility Empathy
Confidence Perseverance Care

Aspiration
Respect

Pride Tolerance
Teamwork Challenge Integrity

Enjoyment



Our aim is to provide experiences that will enable the children to:

- understand and respect the beliefs of the Christian religion
- understand that the Christian religion is an important aspect of the history of the world and our country
- develop positive attitudes towards others
- understand and respect the fundamental beliefs of other world religions.
- understand and respect the fact that we live in a multi faith society
- understand and explore big questions about life, to find out what people believe and what difference this makes to how they live, so that pupils can make sense of religion, reflecting on their own lives and ways of living.

The Teaching of RE

- The Reception class incorporates RE within the EYFS areas of learning and development – Personal, Social and Emotional development and Understanding the World: People and Communities
- All classes from Year 1 to Year 6 have the equivalent of one RE lesson per week – this may be taught in blocks.
- The curriculum for each year is determined by the scheme of work (long term plans). This ensures continuity and progression throughout the school.

The Scheme of work for RE (Long Term Plans) reflect the expectations of the Leicestershire SACRE Agreed Syllabus. We use the Leicestershire Curriculum Guides to create our Medium term plans. These reflect the fact that the religious traditions in

Great Britain are in the main Christian, while taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain.

Assessment

The teacher will assess pupils' understanding of each topic as work is being taught. Informal assessment occurs throughout every lesson through discussion and evaluation of the children's work. This is invaluable in enabling the teacher to check that children have grasped the main teaching focus of that lesson.

The long and medium term plans provide a record of what is being taught in each year group. End of unit assessment statements guide teachers in their assessments at the end of each unit and at the end of each year.

Cross-Curricular Links

Cross-curricular links are made in specific subject areas:

- **English** – reading and writing are essential for the processes of finding out and communicating an understanding of RE. Discussion, drama and role play are important ways for children to develop their understanding that people have different viewpoints and perspectives on their world.
- **History & Geography** – The RE curriculum will be enhanced as children learn about the location and characteristics of different countries. Similarly learning about different periods in History will provide depth and background to the RE curriculum.
- **Computing** – by providing a range of information sources to enhance knowledge, by providing access to images of people, places and environments. RE teaching can be enhanced by source material from the internet.

Parental right to withdraw

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from RE lessons or some aspects of.

Collective Worship - Statutory Duty of School

All maintained schools and Academies should provide daily collective worship for registered pupils (apart from those who have been **withdrawn by their parents**). This is usually provided within a daily assembly. The aim of collective worship is to develop pupils socially, morally, spiritually and culturally and to also promote British values as part of SMSC.

The Head teacher is responsible for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body. Daily collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. The precise nature will depend on the family background, ages and abilities of the pupils.

Collective Worship - Implementation

Collective worship, whether in whole school assembly, key stage assembly or class assemblies will:

- be acceptable to the whole community, staff and pupils

- include a variety of elements at different times
- involve the pupils
- aid the growth of respect and tolerance within the school community
- be linked to whole school assembly themes

Through collective worship, pupils are introduced to aspects and beliefs of other world religions across the school. We tackle issues (as listed below) about the world today as much as the historical context of religious stories.

The aim of the collective worship policy is to provide the opportunity for pupils to:

- reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian nature and on their own beliefs
- develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- respond to the spiritual dimension offered

The Role of The Head teacher

In consultation with the RE Co-ordinator, the Head teacher:

- determines the ways RE should support, enrich and extend the curriculum;
- decides the provision and allocation of resources;
- decides ways in which developments can be assessed, and records maintained;
- ensures that RE is used in a way to achieve the aims and objectives of the school;
- ensures that there is an RE policy, and identifies an RE co-ordinator;
- ensures that the provision for collective worship meets daily requirements.

The Role of the RE Co-ordinator

The RE Co-ordinator should:

- ensure the development of a scheme of work for the RE curriculum. This will follow the Leicestershire Agreed syllabus.
- promote the integration of RE within appropriate teaching and learning activities;
- manage the provision and deployment of resources and give guidance on classroom organisation support;
- inspire colleagues to deliver high quality teaching and learning opportunities;
- lead INSET within the school, and investigate suitable courses elsewhere;
- act as a contact point between the school and support agencies, including the LA;
- provide technical expertise;
- co-ordinate the evaluation and review of the school's RE policy.
- write, monitor and evaluate an action plan for RE for the School Core Plan
- monitor & review the RE provision within the school

Monitoring and Evaluation

The teaching and learning in RE will be monitored through the school Core Plan by the RE Co-ordinator in the first instance and then the Senior Leadership Team and the Head teacher. Governors will be involved via the monitoring and evaluation of the School Improvement Plan cycle.

Equality Statement

At Thornton Primary School, we actively seek to encourage equity and equality through our teaching. As such, we seek to advance the equality of opportunity between people who share any of the following characteristic:

- gender;
- ethnicity;
- disability;
- religion or belief;
- sexual orientation;
- gender reassignment;
- pregnancy or maternity.

The use of stereotypes under any of the above headings will always be challenged.

Inclusion

Our school is an inclusive school. We aim to make all pupils feel included in all our activities. We try to make all our teaching fully inclusive. We recognise the entitlement of all pupils to a balanced, broadly-based curriculum. We have systems in place for early identification of barriers to their learning and participation so that they can engage in school activities with all other pupils. We acknowledge the need for high expectations and suitable targets for all children.

Health & Safety

Health and safety issues in RE include the safe teaching of appropriate procedures when on visits to places of worship. The children are taught to be aware of their own and others safety.