

Title	Author	Approved		Review Date
RE Policy	S. Russon	Latest Update: Governors	January 2025	January 2027

## Cliffe VC Primary School

### RE Policy

Religious Education is a statutory subject for all pupils aged 5-11. Here at Cliffe VC Primary School, we are required to teach RE to all pupils. Religious Education in North Yorkshire is supported by SACRE (The Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education).

An Agreed Syllabus will run until 2028. The Agreed Syllabus has been integrated into our whole school curriculum and we, as a school, have acted accordingly to ensure that the new syllabus is carried out and taught in line with local authority advice.

#### **Our Intent**

Our principal aim of RE is to engage pupils in systematic enquiry into significant human questions which religion and worldviews address, so that they can develop the understanding and skills needed to appreciate and appraise varied responses to these questions, as well as develop responses of their own.

#### **Aims**

RE is taught at Cliffe VC Primary School to ensure that children have an understanding of religious and non-religious worldviews as ideas and practices which have shaped and continue to shape our world.

Religious education explores big questions about life, in order to find out what people believe and what difference this makes to how they live, so that pupils can make sense of religion and worldviews and reflect on their own ideas and ways of living.

Understanding this gives our children an ability to be educated citizens of Cliffe, The United Kingdom and The World.

At Cliffe VC Primary School, we strive to promote understanding of, and interest in, the major religious and non-religious worldviews, in accordance with the North Yorkshire Syllabus for Religious Education. We believe at this school that RE both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Our caring ethos and the value which we place on the development of the whole child; spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually, is reflected in the RE curriculum.

#### **Our aims for Religious Education at Cliffe VC Primary School are:**

- All pupils will acquire and develop knowledge and understanding about the principal religious and non religious worldviews practised in Great

Britain. Christians, Muslims, Jewish people, Hindus and Humanists are studied in depth

- All pupils will develop an understanding of the influence of beliefs, values and traditions on individuals, communities, societies and cultures, including the local community.
- All pupils will develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues with reference to the teachings of the principal religious and non-religious worldviews.

All pupils will enhance their own spiritual, moral, social and cultural development by:

- developing awareness of the fundamental questions of life and how religious beliefs and practices can relate to them
- responding to the fundamental questions of life with reference to religious beliefs and practices
- reflecting on their beliefs, values and experiences
- expressing their own viewpoints in a thoughtful, reasoned and considerate way
- All pupils will recognise the right of people to hold different beliefs within an ethnically and socially diverse society. As a Rights Respecting school, we introduce the children to the articles within the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child that refer to religious belief and practice, and encourage them to understand and promote these amongst themselves and in the wider community.
- Article 14 states that every child has the right to think and believe what they want and to practise their religion.
- Article 30 maintains the right of every child to learn and use the language, customs and religion of their family.

In addition to learning in the classroom, we broaden the children's experience through visits to places of worship and by faith visitors coming into school.

We are committed to ensuring that all children make excellent progress in their knowledge, understanding and skills in RE. Our expectations for what should be achieved by the end of each year group are divided into three aims:

1. Know about and understand a range of religious and non religious worldviews.
2. Express ideas and insights about nature, significant and impact of religious and non-religious worldviews.
3. Gain and deploy the skills needed to engage seriously with religious and non-religious worldviews.

## **Planning**

In order to ensure that our aims are met and the Programme of Study is covered at each key stage the school uses the North Yorkshire units of learning for RE which builds-in coverage of and progression in both the content and concepts outlined in the Agreed Syllabus. We use a combination of teaching RE through RE days and as a separate subject, depending on the material which has to be covered.

The units have been chosen to provide a logical sequence of learning that builds on children's knowledge unit by unit, year by year.

## **Equal Opportunities**

Provision for RE is in accordance with the school's equal opportunities policy. In accordance with the aims of the school the pupils will develop an appreciation of and respect for the beliefs and philosophies of others. Pupils will be encouraged to value the rich variety of cultural traditions and lifestyles represented in Great Britain. It is acknowledged and respected that deep beliefs are held in the area of Religious Education. It is therefore our aim to deal with any matters arising as sensitively as possible.

Provision for children with special educational needs, including more able children will follow the school's policies in these areas.

## **Leadership and Management**

The RE subject leader manages this area of the curriculum in line with our job description for subject leaders. There are regular opportunities for RE to be discussed with all staff as well as time given for the subject lead to monitor the subject effectively.

## **Rights for Withdrawal**

Parents at Cliffe VC Primary School have the right to withdraw their children from the RE programme. Where parents have concerns about their children taking part in RE, they are asked to discuss their concerns first with the class teacher or alternatively the subject leader. They will be able to discuss the RE programme and teaching methods in greater detail and give parents access to the RE unit materials and resources used. We firmly believe that Religious Education forms part of the basic curriculum in schools and its teaching is enshrined in law. The school follows the North Yorkshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education and part of the curriculum encourages children to study Christianity in great detail, as well as finding out about other world religions through school trips, visits from outside speakers and class teaching. Our school is aware that children growing up in North Yorkshire may have little contact with people from other faiths and cultures, and it is aware that it has a duty under the Equality Act 2010 to promote good relations between people of different beliefs and ethnicities as part of its single equality duty. Furthermore, the local governing body fully supports our vision and aims in delivering a broad and balanced approach to Religious Education.