

THE ISAAC NEWTON PRIMARY SCHOOL RELIGIOUS **EDUCATION POLICY**

This policy has been adopted by the Governors in consultation with the RE subject leader and teaching staff. It was approved in July 2020 and will be reviewed biannually.

This policy should be read in conjunction with other policies in school including: SMSC, Collective Worship, PSHE, Teaching and Learning, Assessment, Marking and Feedback and other curriculum policies.

The Purpose of RE at The Isaac Newton Primary School

We teach RE as a core part of our school curriculum to help our pupils develop their religious literacy. We understand religious literacy to be:

“Our pupils’ ability to hold balanced and well-informed conversations about religion and belief”.

The Aims of RE at The Isaac Newton Primary School

Isaac Newton School is a Community Primary School which is part of a Multi-Academy Trust (C.I.T). We are a large, urban primary school catering for pupils aged 4 to 11 years in Grantham and its surrounding areas. We have close links with a number of local religious organisations (e.g. LightSpace) and churches (St Wulframs). Whilst attending Isaac Newton, children will learn about the different world faiths in Religious Education.

RE at The Isaac Newton Primary School will be provided within legal requirements. These are as follows:

1. The Basic Curriculum must include provision for RE for all pupils registered on the school roll, including those in Reception class who are less than five years old.
2. The content of RE must reflect the fact that the religious traditions of Great Britain are, in the main, Christian; it must also reflect the teaching and practices of the other principal religious traditions represented in Great Britain
3. The RE curriculum provided will be in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus for Lincolnshire. We aim for pupils to:



- Acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and a range of world faiths and worldviews;
- Develop an understanding of the ways in which religious and non-religious beliefs, teachings, practices, values and traditions influence individuals, communities, societies and cultures, from the local to the global contexts;
- Develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues, with reference to the beliefs, teachings, practices, sources of authority and ways of living associated with the principle religions represented in the UK;
- Develop positive attitudes of mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs;
- Enhance their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development by:
 - Considering the 'big questions' raised by human experience and reflecting on how religious and other traditions respond to them;
 - Responding to such questions with reference to religious beliefs, teachings, practices, values and traditions, relating them to their own understanding and experience;
 - Reflecting on their own beliefs, values and experiences in light of their study of religious and other traditions.

The Context

The Isaac Newton Primary School is large, urban primary school catering for pupils in the age range 4 to 11. We work to the 2018-2023 Lincolnshire Locally Agreed Syllabus for RE.

We recognise the variety of religious and non-religious backgrounds that make up our school community and we respect this variety of backgrounds in the spirit of Christian welcome. We know how relationships with faith practitioners from a range of world faiths can enrich pupils' experiences in RE and we strive to cultivate and maintain these relationships.

We actively seek to prepare our pupils for life in modern Britain. As such, we promote key British values, including respect for and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We challenge racism and all forms of prejudice and we see RE as one curriculum area in which our pupils can encounter and critically reflect on a range of worldviews.

Time Allocation

Our school curriculum for religious education meets the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act (ERA). The ERA states that religious education is compulsory for all children, including those in the reception class (but not nursery classes) who are less than five years old. At The Isaac Newton Primary



School this time is arranged as discrete lessons for each class, taking place **at least** fortnightly. Some classes prefer to teach a shorter lesson each week, rather than a longer lesson each fortnight.

RE forms part of the planning at EYFS; although there is no expected time allocation at this level, it is taught weekly.

RE curriculum time does not include values lessons, collective worship or assembly.

Scheme of Work and Planning

Our RE Scheme of Work is based on the 2018-2023 Lincolnshire locally agreed syllabus (copies of which are retained on shared drive (Staff Only Data- Cloud) and a hardcopy can be found in the RE Subject Leader folder). RE will be based around termly themes. In EYFS, it is taught as part of the unit Understanding of the World in People, Culture and Communities. At KS1, the principal religions studied will be Christianity and Islam; at KS2, the principal religions studied will be Christianity, Hinduism and Islam. It is not expected that pupils will study all six major world religions in depth during their time at The Isaac Newton Primary School, although they will have learning opportunities that allow them to encounter all these faiths. It is expected that pupils will also encounter non-religious worldviews, such as Humanism, as part of their RE curriculum.

We carry out curriculum planning for RE in three phases (long-term, medium-term and short-term). The long-term plan maps the RE topics studied throughout the school; the medium-term plan gives details of each unit of study delivered to each Key Stage. Our planning is based on a one-year programme. The class teacher writes the plans for each lesson and these are recorded using the schools 'Sequence of Learning' template. The school has purchased schemes of work from an RE advisor to support teachers with their short term planning. These are discussed on an informal basis with the RE Subject Leader and form part of the annual monitoring process for RE teaching and learning.

Teaching and Learning

OfSTED guidance encourages a range of teaching and learning styles in RE; our policy is to aim to ensure enquiry, art, drama, thinking skills, speaking and listening activities, multisensory activities, visits/visitors, ICT and other teaching strategies are used in order to enable each child to progress in RE according to their individual needs. Enrichment opportunities are provided through theme days such as Diwali Day. Cross-curricular work is encouraged, in line with whole school policy on teaching and learning. We identify RE as one of the core subjects through which our pupils can develop spiritually, morally, socially and culturally, but we do not limit the delivery of SMSC to this subject alone.



Resources

The Isaac Newton Primary school has invested in a wide range of appropriate books, artefacts, DVD resources, etc., and the RE Subject Leader audits these resources annually. We take advice from the Diocesan RE Adviser and other RE professionals on the best resources to support the delivery of high-quality RE.

Visits and Visitors

We consider that an essential element of the delivery of good quality RE is encounter with world faiths. We encourage our pupils to participate in visits to places of worship when the opportunity arises; these visits are arranged in line with the programme of study for RE and provide pupils with the chance to encounter world religions as living faiths in modern Britain. We also encourage faith leaders and other members of faith communities to visit The Isaac Newton Primary school. These visits are arranged in accordance with the school's trips policy.

Assessment

We reflect the latest advice and guidance on assessment in RE in our planning outcomes, ensuring that work is both matched to pupil need and enables progression. We report annually on the progress of each child in RE- this is included within their end of year report to Parents/Carers. This assessment will be based on regular monitoring of work in RE using a variety of methods, including verbal feedback, evidence folders and written comments on individual pieces of work.

RE and Inclusion

At The Isaac Newton Primary School we teach RE to all pupils, whatever their ability and individual needs. RE forms part of our commitment to provide a broad and balanced education to all children. Through our RE teaching, we provide learning opportunities that enable all pupils to make good progress. We strive hard to meet the needs of all pupils and we take all reasonable steps to achieve this. For further details, see separate school policies.

Monitoring and Review

We intend that this policy should operate for the next two years, and then be fully reviewed by staff and governors. The RE Subject Leader will monitor the delivery of RE during each academic year to ensure that this policy is being appropriately implemented. They will be responsible for monitoring the standards of the children's work and the quality of the teaching in religious education. They are also responsible for supporting colleagues in the teaching of religious education, for being informed about



current developments in the subject, and for providing a strategic lead and direction for the subject in the school.

The RE Subject Leader will evaluate their own leadership of the subject during each academic year. Using a self-evaluation tool, such as the school evaluation form for the RE Quality Mark, the RE Subject Leader will work with their line manager to ensure that leadership of RE remains a high priority and is of a high quality.

Withdrawal from RE

We acknowledge the right of parents/guardians to withdraw their children from RE lessons and of teachers to withdraw from teaching the subject. We acknowledge that parents/guardians/teachers do not need to provide a reason why they wish to withdraw from the subject. Should a parent/guardian wish to withdraw their child from RE lessons or a teacher wish to refuse to teach RE, we ask that written notice be sent to the Headteacher.

Should a parent/guardian request that their child be withdrawn from RE, we will endeavour to communicate clearly the place of RE within a broad and balanced curriculum to ensure that they are in possession of all the necessary information before confirming their decision. However, we will not attempt to persuade them to alter their decision. Any queries regarding withdrawal from RE should be directed to the Deputy Headteacher (curriculum lead) in the first instance, and thereafter to the Headteacher.

