



## Religious Education Policy

Approved by:

Curriculum  
Committee

Date: July 2024

Next review due by:

July 2026

### The Context

In our school we seek to empower all to fulfil their potential and flourish as agents of positive change in the world. Our curriculum provides pupils with the knowledge, understanding and skills they need to fulfil their potential. Through addressing key questions, engaging in critical thinking and seeking wisdom, our curriculum supports pupils to flourish as agents of positive change. The RE curriculum at Gonerby Hill Foot Church of England Primary realises this vision by focusing on substantive, disciplinary and personal knowledge that unlocks pupils' worldview literacy and empowers them to engage with the lived reality of religious and non-religious worldviews with wisdom, self-awareness and critical analysis.

As a Church of England school/academy, we recognise the core place that RE occupies as part of a broad and balanced curriculum. We also understand the contribution of effective RE to our journey towards realising our school's distinctively Christian vision.

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 are glad to have good relationships with faith and belief practitioners from a range of religious and non-religious worldviews, and we value their contribution to our provision of effective RE.

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

### The Purpose of RE

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 Gonerby Hill Foot Church of England Primary School**

RE at our school will be provided within legal requirements as follows:

1. The curriculum must include provision for RE for all pupils registered on the school roll, including those in Reception classes 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.

Within this framework our aims in RE are for pupils to:

- Acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other world faiths;
- Develop an understanding of the ways in which 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:
  1. Considering the 'big questions' raised by human experience and reflecting on how religious and other traditions respond to them;
  2. Responding to such questions with reference to religious beliefs, teachings, practices, values, and traditions, relating them to their own understanding and experience;
  3. Reflecting on their own beliefs, values and experiences in light of their study of religious and other traditions.

## **Time Allocation**

It is the expectation of the Church of England Education Office that RE should constitute a minimum of 5% curriculum time. This is in line with the recommendations made by the Dearing Report (1994). We provide the minimum time of 36 hours per year for KS1 and 45 hours per year for KS2. This time is arranged as discrete 45 minute lessons per week for each class.

RE forms part of the planning at EYFS; although there is no expected time allocation at this level, we expect that there will be connections made between RE and Early Learning Goals.

**RE curriculum time does not include collective worship or assembly.**

## **Scheme of Work and Planning**

Our RE Scheme of Work is based on the Lincolnshire locally agreed syllabus. RE will be based around termly themes. A whole school overview details the units or themes that will be studied by each year

group within a two-year rolling programme. The programme of study for KS1 and KS2 includes compulsory and additional units.

At KS1, the principal religions studied will be Christianity and Islam; at KS2, the principal religions studied will be Christianity, Islam and Hinduism. It is not expected that pupils will study all six major world religions in depth during their time at Gonerby Hill Foot Church of England School, although they will have learning opportunities that allow them to encounter all these faiths.

We carry out curriculum planning for RE in three phases (long-term, medium-term and short-term). Our planning is based on a two-year rolling programme. These are discussed on an informal basis with the RE Subject Leader and form part of the on-going monitoring process for RE teaching and learning.

### **Curriculum Design**

Our RE curriculum is based on the Lincolnshire locally agreed syllabus. At KS1, the principal religious worldviews studied will be Christianity and Islam; at KS2, the principal religious worldviews studied will be Christianity, Islam, and Hinduism. It is not expected that pupils will study all six major world religions in depth during their time at Gonerby Hill Foot C of E School, although they will have learning opportunities that allow them to encounter a range of religious worldviews. It is expected that pupils will also engage with non-religious worldviews, such as Humanism, as part of the 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 sequence of learning in RE; the medium-term plan gives details of each unit of study delivered to each Key Stage, identifying clearly the different types of knowledge developed through the sequence of learning. As we have mixed-age classes, we carry out the medium-term planning on a two-year cycle. The class teacher writes the plans for each lesson. 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.

### **Resources**

Gonerby Hill Foot Church of England school has invested in a wide range of appropriate books, artefacts, posters, 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**

We consider that an essential element of the delivery of quality-first 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 Gonerby Hill Foot Church of England School. These visits are arranged in accordance with the school's trips policy.

### **RE and Inclusion**

At Gonerby Hill Foot Church of England 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.

### **Inspection**

Gonerby Hill Foot Church of England School is a Voluntary Controlled school. As such, RE is inspected as a separate element of the Section 48 SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspection. It is the responsibility of the RE Subject Leader to review and maintain evidence for the RE elements of this inspection, with appropriate support from the head teacher, governors and Diocesan RE Adviser.

### **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. Their role is to support and hold accountable all members of staff involved in the delivery of RE. To this end, they will ask each member of staff involved in the delivery of RE to provide a copy of their medium-term planning for RE.

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 school governors.

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 head teacher.

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