

The Limewoods Federation

Policy on Religious Education (RE)

Intent

Within our Limewoods Federation the purpose of RE is to develop our pupils' religious literacy. We understand religious literacy to be the ability to hold balanced and well-informed conversations about religion and belief. Religious education enables children to investigate and reflect on some of the most fundamental questions asked by people. We develop the children's knowledge and understanding of the major world faiths, and address fundamental questions concerning, for example, the meaning of life and the existence of a divine spirit. We enable children to develop a sound knowledge not only of Christianity but also of other world religions and views, especially those that are the main faiths of children within our school. Children reflect on what it means to have a faith and to develop their own spiritual knowledge and understanding. We help the children to learn from religions as well as about religions.

Implementation

RE allows all pupils to:

- Develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of Christianity as well as other principal religions and worldviews. This is developed through a carefully planned sequence of learning, which builds on the core concept of each faith.
- Focus on concepts as well as content, which may be within the context of enquiry-based learning, where appropriate.
- Explore authentic religious material, e.g. sacred texts.
- Reflect diversity in terms of the changing religious landscape of the UK so that they are prepared for life in modern Britain.
- to develop an understanding of religious traditions, and an appreciation of cultural differences in the UK today
- Engage and challenge pupils.
- Reflect pupils' own experiences and provide a safe space for discussion.
- Present religious belief as a real, lived phenomenon, not something exotic or belonging to the past.
- Take into account the increase in the number of people with non-religious beliefs and identities.
- Provide opportunities for personal reflection and spiritual development.

Supporting All Learners

Within our federation, 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 to meet the needs of all pupils, whatever their ability and individual needs, and we take all reasonable steps to achieve this. For further details, see separate school policies.

The Early Years Foundation Stage

RE is an integral part of the pupils' learning within our reception classes and as a federation, we believe that developing the children's knowledge of religion, beliefs and

cultures is essential to achieve some of the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum early learning goals.

Resources

Our Federation has invested in a wide range of appropriate books, artefacts, DVD resources, posters, persona dolls, 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 a range of religious and non-religious worldviews. 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 both of our schools within our federation. These visits are arranged in accordance with the school's trips policy.

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 require that written notice be sent to the head teacher.

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. If a pupil is withdrawn from RE lessons, the school is required to provide supervision, *but should not incur any additional cost in so doing*.

Any queries regarding withdrawal from RE should be directed to the RE Subject Leader in the first instance, and thereafter to the head teacher.

Impact

Monitoring and Review

The RE Subject Leader, alongside other leaders, will monitor the delivery of RE during each academic year in line with the federation's monitoring and evaluation timetable.

We intend that this policy should operate for the next 2 years, and then be fully reviewed by staff and governors.

Adoption Date: 27th January 2020

Review Date: January 2022

Relevant documents include:

Lincolnshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education
Lincoln Diocesan Board of Education Guidance

Limewoods Federation Long term Plan for Religious Education
The National Curriculum in England – Key stage 1 and 2 framework document
EYFS Statutory Framework