

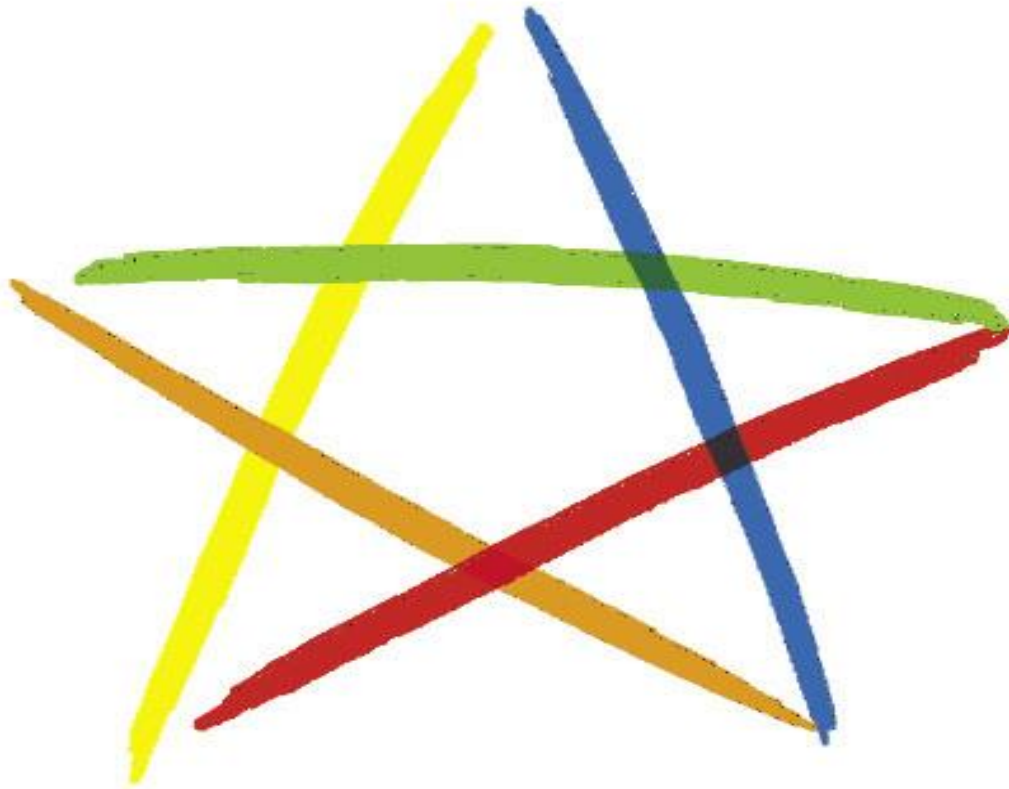
Strive Think Act Respect Shine

Our vision is for all our children to shine like STARS

"Those who are wise will shine like the sky and those who lead others to goodness will shine like the stars forever" Daniel 12:3
Through our curriculum we teach our Christian values: courage, friendship, peace, forgiveness, thanks and truth so that our children are prepared spiritually, morally and culturally for life in modern Britain.

Norton C of E Primary School

RE and worldviews policy



Strive Think Act Respect Shine

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1. Aims and objectives

Religious education enables children to investigate and reflect on some of the most fundamental questions asked by people. At Norton C of E Primary School we develop the children's knowledge and understanding of the major world faiths, and we address the fundamental questions in life, 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 non-religious views. Children reflect on what it means to have a faith and to develop their own spiritual knowledge and understanding. We help the children learn *from* religions as well as *about* religions.

The aims of religious education and worldviews are to help children:

- develop an awareness of spiritual and moral issues in life experiences;
- develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other major world religions and value systems found in Britain;
- develop an understanding of what it means to be committed to a religious tradition;
- be able to reflect on their own experiences and to develop a personal response to the fundamental questions of life;
- develop an understanding of religious traditions and to appreciate the cultural differences in Britain today;
- develop investigative and research skills and to enable them to make reasoned judgements about religious issues;
- have respect for other peoples' views and to celebrate the diversity in society.

2. The legal position of religious education

Our school curriculum for religious education meets the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act (ERA). The ERA stipulates that Religious education is compulsory for all children, including those in the reception class who are less than five years old. The ERA allows parents to withdraw their child from religious education classes if they so wish, although this should only be done once the parents have given written notice to the school governors. The ERA also allows teachers to refuse to teach religious education, but only after they have given due notice of their intention to the school governors. The religious education curriculum forms an important part of our school's spiritual, moral and social teaching. It also promotes education for

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citizenship. Our school RE curriculum is based on the Gloucester LA's Agreed Syllabus (2017-2022) and it meets all the requirements set out in that document. The ERA states that the RE syllabus should reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, and that it should, at the same time, take account of the teachings and practices of other major religions.

3. Teaching and learning style

We base our teaching and learning style in RE and worldviews on the key principle that good teaching allows children both to learn about religious traditions and to reflect on what the religious ideas and concepts mean to them. Our teaching enables children to extend their own sense of values and promotes their spiritual growth and development. We encourage children to think about their own views and values in relation to the themes and topics studied in the RE and worldviews curriculum.

Our teaching and learning styles enable children to build on their own experiences and extend their knowledge and understanding of religious traditions. We use their experiences at religious festivals such as Easter, Harvest, Diwali, Passover etc. to develop their religious thinking. We organize visits to local places of worship and invite representatives of local religious groups to come into school and talk to the children. These workshops support and complement the RE curriculum and bring the festivals alive for the children.

Children carry out research into religious topics. They study particular religious faiths and also compare the religious views of different faith groups on topics such as rites of passage or festivals. Children discuss religious and moral issues using computers and working individually or in groups. Sometimes they prepare presentations and share these with other members of the school in assemblies.

We recognise the fact that all classes in our school have children of widely differing abilities, and so we provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child. We achieve this in a variety of ways, for example, by:

- setting common tasks which are open-ended and can have a variety of responses;
- setting tasks of increasing difficulty

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- providing resources of different complexity, adapted to the ability of the child;
- using classroom assistants to support the work of individuals or groups of children.

4. Curriculum planning in religious education and worldviews

We plan our curriculum in accordance with the Gloucestershire LA's Agreed Syllabus (2017-2022) and the understanding Christianity resources. We ensure that the topics studied in religious education and worldviews build upon prior learning. We offer opportunities for children of all abilities to develop their skills and knowledge in each unit, and we ensure that the planned progression built into the scheme of work offers the children an increasing challenge as they move through the school.

We carry out the curriculum planning in religious education in two phases (long-term and medium term). The long-term plan maps the religious education topics studied in each term during each key stage. The RE subject leader works out this plan in cooperation with teaching colleagues in each year group.

The agreed syllabus states:

Our medium-term plans give details of each unit of work for each term, each unit of work is based around a key question which encourages the children to explore their skills of enquiry, it also promotes their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Medium term planning is the responsibility of the subject teacher. They use the medium term plans for each lesson and highlight the specific learning objectives for that lesson. S/he keeps these individual plans and often discusses them on an informal basis with the RE subject leader.

5. Foundation Stage

We teach religious education and worldviews to all children in the school, including those in reception.

In reception, religious education is an integral part of the topic work covered during the year. As reception is part of the Foundation Stage, we relate the religious education aspects of the children's work to the objectives set out in the Early Years Foundation Stage Guidance which underpin the curriculum planning.

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Personal, social and health education (PSHE) and citizenship

Through our lessons, we teach the children about the values and moral beliefs that underpin individual choices of behaviour. So, for example, we contribute to the discussion of topics such as smoking, drugs and health education. We also promote the values and attitudes required for citizenship in a democracy by teaching respect for others and the need for personal responsibility. In general, by promoting tolerance and understanding of other people, we enable children to appreciate what it means to be positive members of our pluralistic society.

Spiritual, moral, racial, social and cultural development

Through teaching religious education and worldviews in our school, we provide opportunities for spiritual development. Children consider and respond to questions concerning the meaning and purpose of life. We help them to recognise the difference between right and wrong through the study of moral and ethical questions. We enhance their social development by helping them to build a sense of identity in a multicultural society. Children explore issues of religious faith and values and, in so doing, they develop their knowledge and understanding of the cultural context of their own lives.

7. Teaching religious education to children with special needs

In our school inclusion is paramount, therefore we teach RE to all children, whatever their ability. The teaching of RE is a vital part of our school curriculum policy, which states that we provide a broad and balanced education for all our children. When teaching RE we ensure that we provide learning opportunities matched to the needs of children with learning difficulties. We take into account the targets set for individual children in their Individual Education Plans (IEPs).

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10. Monitoring and review

The RE subject leader is responsible for monitoring the standards of the children's work and the quality of the teaching in religious education. S/he is 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. She also carries out the vital task of reviewing samples of the children's work and visiting classes to observe teaching in the subject.

11. Agreed consistencies

Agreed Consistency	What this looks like	How/when it will be monitored
RE to be taught weekly as a core subject	No less than 45minutes taught a week	Work in books and Reception to have a class floor book Books checked termly by SL
Pupils engagement increased through some interactive teaching	Juniors to visit places of worship/visitors in All key stages using religious artefacts	End of year review Governor report
Key vocabulary understood by pupils for each faith studied	Displays for RE in every class with key terms on them Key vocabulary in RE books	Termly- pupil voice
Assessment	At the start and end of every topic use the big topic question in the middle of the page and let the children annotate with what they know.	Teachers to compare these two pages (start and end of each topic) to check understanding
Limit worksheet use as much as possible	If worksheets are used ensure boxes aren't too small that they limit children's answers/how much they can write to answer questions	

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12. Example of RE and worldviews displays in classrooms:

Title for the whole display: RE and worldviews

One half of the display is always Christianity, the second half is the topic the class are on for that term

Example layout:

RE and Worldviews	
<i>Title: Christianity</i> <i>Key terms</i> <i>Photos of artefacts (may go with some of the key terms)</i> <i>Books of the bible poster</i> <i>This half of the display will hopefully not change for the whole school year!</i>	<i>Title: Religion for that term</i> <i>Topic question with post-it notes</i> <i>Key terms for that topic</i> <i>Photos of artefacts for that topic (if relevant)</i> <i>Example of some work done</i> <i>This half of the display will change for each term, depending on the topic!</i>

(classes can split the display horizontally or vertically - depending on the space classrooms have.)

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