

Purleigh Primary School



Religious Education (RE) Policy

“Achievement for all within a community that cares”

Date adopted: Spring 2023

Date of review: Spring 2026

Intent

As outlined in The Essex Agreed Syllabus 2022 for religious education, Religious Education (RE) delivered at Purleigh will:

- Provoke challenging questions about the meaning and purpose of life, beliefs, the self, issues of right and wrong, and what it means to be human.
- Develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of Christianity, other principal religions, and religious traditions that examine these questions, fostering personal reflection and spiritual development.
- Encourage pupils to explore their own beliefs (whether they are religious or nonreligious), in the light of what they learn, as they examine issues of religious belief and faith and how these impact on personal, institutional and social ethics, and to express their responses. This also builds resilience to anti-democratic or extremist narratives.
- Enable pupils to build their sense of identity and belonging, which helps them flourish within their communities and as citizens in a diverse society.
- Teach pupils to develop respect for others, including people with different faiths and beliefs, and helps to challenge prejudice.
- Prompt pupils to consider their responsibilities to themselves and to others, and to explore how they might contribute to their communities and to wider society.
- Encourage empathy, generosity and compassion.

At Purleigh, we are committed to providing our children with a learning environment in which they have the opportunity to develop their knowledge and understanding of religions while contributing to their spiritual, moral social and cultural development.

Implementation

In the EYFS RE is taught using RE-related early learning goals, while in KS1 and KS2 programmes of study are used, both of which follow The Essex Agreed Syllabus 2022 for religious education.

In KS1 and KS2 RE learning is recorded in an RE exercise book, while in EYFS RE is recorded in a variety of ways including some written pieces (which are added to children's Learning Journals), photographs and practical activities.

Purleigh has established links with the local church and community, providing children with excellent learning opportunities, including the sharing of the school Christmas nativity which is performed in the church.



Theology Lens - Thinking through Believing

- Ask questions that believers would ask
- Think like theologians
- Explore questions and answers that arise from inside religions and worldviews



Philosophy Lens – Thinking through Thinking

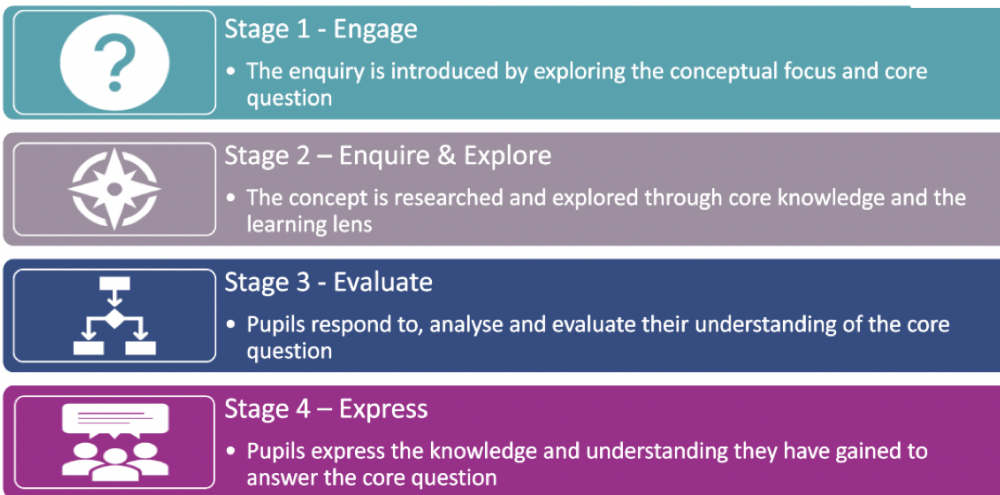
- Ask questions that thinkers would ask
- Think like philosophers
- Explore questions and answers raised through considering the nature of knowledge, existence and morality



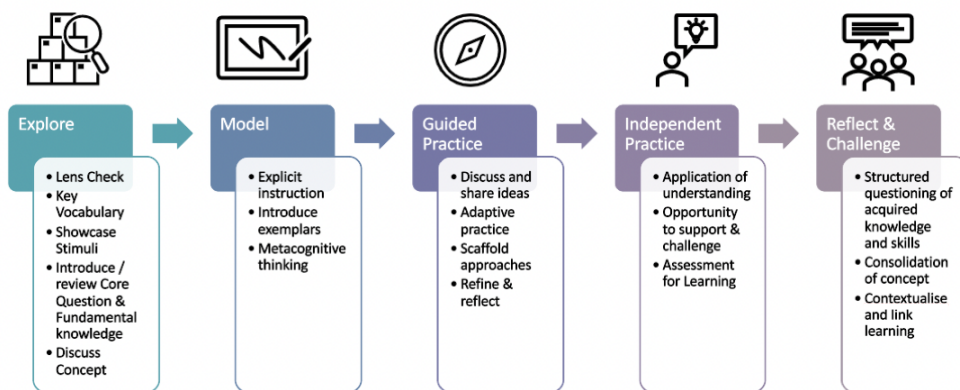
Human & Social Science Lens – Thinking through Living

- Ask questions that people who study reality would ask
- Think like human and social scientists
- Explore questions and answers raised in relation to the impact of religions and worldviews on people and their lives

Stages of Learning- Sessions



Session Sequence



Impact

At Purleigh we seek to ensure that all pupils in our school are educated to develop spiritually, academically, emotionally and morally to enable them to better understand themselves and others and to cope with the opportunities, challenges and responsibilities of living in a rapidly changing, multicultural world.

Teaching and Learning

-Teachers aim to provide a teaching environment, which encourages children to share, question, to reflect and to empathise.

-Teachers will use a mixture of teaching styles, including whole class, group, paired and individual.

-Teachers will strive to ensure that the classroom ethos is such that all children's opinions are encouraged and valued.

-Teachers will incorporate learning using artefacts, visits and visitors (where possible and appropriate).

-Teachers will ensure that their classroom is a place where religious education is active, positively welcomed and reflective of the current learning in the subject.

-Teachers will strive to have access to the necessary resources, to further children's independent learning e.g. artefacts, books, etc.

Assessment

In the EYFS, RE contributes towards many of the Early Learning Goals (ELGs) within the EYFS Framework, which teachers can therefore incorporate into their teacher assessed levels.

In KS1 and KS2 teachers can use the content of the programmes of study to inform their teacher assessed levels.

Observations and careful questioning enable teachers to adjust lessons accordingly. Children receive effective feedback through teacher assessment, either verbally or through written marking. Feedback is encouraging and positive, but constructive, thereby moving children forward. Assessment is also monitored through Governor visits and work scrutiny.

Planning and Resources

At Purleigh we implement The Essex Agreed Syllabus for religious education, using the Saffron Academy Scheme, 2023, which ensures there is a progressive coverage of religious education learning across the school. Teachers have access to resources to support and develop the teaching of RE, which are stored in school.

Please also refer to EYFS, KS1 and KS2 sections of this policy for further details.

EYFS

In the early years foundation stage (EYFS), as stated in The Essex Agreed Syllabus for religious education on page 14 '...children are beginning to explore the world of religion in terms of special people, books, occasions, places and objects and by visiting places of worship. They listen to and talk about stories. They are starting to use religious words and their senses in exploring religions and beliefs, practices and forms of expression. They reflect on their own feelings and experiences. They use their imagination and curiosity to develop their appreciation and wonder of the world in which they live.' Typically within in the EYFS, RE is integrated within other ELGs, however there are some festivals and events across the academic year where RE is taught more specifically.

KS1

In KS1 there are six study blocks covered, each taken from The Essex Agreed Syllabus for religious education:

- special people
- special places
- special words and stories
- special things in nature
- special symbols and objects
- special ways of living

The focus within each of the above blocks will be Christianity, with major world faiths being incorporated. At least 40 minutes of curriculum time per week will be set aside for RE.

KS2

In KS2, as stated in The Essex Agreed Syllabus 'pupils learn about Christianity, other principal religions and Humanism, recognising the impact of religion and belief on individuals and society locally, nationally and globally. Across KS2 the programmes of study covered will be:

- Christianity
- Buddhism
- Hinduism
- Humanism
- Islam
- Judaism
- Sikhism

Equal Opportunities

Attitudes such as respect, care and concern should be promoted through all areas of school life.

We strive to provide equality of opportunity, as defined in our Equal Opportunities Policy.

Inclusion

At Purleigh we aim to explore creative and flexible ways of providing RE. RE should be taught in ways that is safe, enjoyable and yet exciting, which will be achieved using a variety of teaching methods that are inclusive to all, whilst also offering opportunities for differentiation. Children are encouraged to deploy skills, ask questions and explore answers, as learners, to continually extend their learning.

Role of the Subject Leader

- Raise the profile of Religious Education at Purleigh through their own practice.
- By providing teachers with information on various religious festivals celebrated at certain times of year.
- Keep up to date on current developments in Religious Education, and share this information with colleagues.
- Organise, maintain, audit and purchase Religious Education resources.
- Monitor children's understanding of different religions and beliefs by collecting work samples from across the school and by speaking to the children.
- Monitor coverage of RE across the school, in relation to The Essex Agreed Syllabus.

Parents

At Purleigh we recognise that the teaching of religious beliefs usually begins in the home, and that carers and parents have a valuable role to play in assisting in their child's learning.