

John Ruskin Primary School and Language Classes

R.E. Policy

Co-ordinator: Mary Honeybone

Last review: October 2023

Next review: 2026

May 1999

Revised: June 2000

Revised: October 2009

Reviewed: 2011 Revised: 2016



"Be responsible, be fair, stay positive and care"

We believe Religious Education to form a vital part of a curriculum which “promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils” and prepares them “for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life” (Education Reform Act 1988 1.2)

Teaching Objectives

We teach Religious Education in order that all pupils at John Ruskin School:

- Realise that we live in a society of many religions and develop compassion, respect and tolerance for other peoples’ religious beliefs, practises, sacred text, worship and values;
- Acquire knowledge and understanding of the religious beliefs, practises, sacred texts, worship and values of the six principle religions represented in Great Britain;
- Develop an understanding of the influence of these beliefs, practises and values on individuals, communities, societies and cultures;
- Develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues, relevant to their own experience and understanding, with reference to the principal religions of Great Britain;
- Gain a sense of wonder and an appreciation of the complexity of our world;
- Recognise the shared values of the principal religions of Great Britain;
- Understand the use of symbols to convey meaning and their use in a variety of religions;
- Enhance their spiritual, moral, cultural and social development by:
 - Developing awareness of the fundamental questions of life raised by human experiences, and of how religious teaching can relate to these
 - Responding to such questions with reference to the teachings and practices of religions, and to their own understanding and experience
 - Reflecting on their own beliefs, values and experiences in the light of their study

Enjoy and achieve – by participating in appropriate and engaging activities;

Make a positive contribution – by developing an understanding of, and respect for others’ beliefs and by reflecting on their own beliefs and ideas and being supported to express these.

Our Teaching of Religious Education

Within our teaching of Religious Education we will give children the opportunity to:

- Work in both individual and group situations
- Record/express their work in different ways e.g. through discussion, art, drama, poetry, dance, music and writing
- Learn about aspects of Religious Education through other related topics /subjects (where appropriate)
- Develop their ability to discover information for themselves from differing sources
- Discuss and formulate their own views about what they are learning
- Reflect on the different experiences that they encounter through Religious Education
- Question what they are discovering
- Evaluate and analyse their own beliefs in the light of what they learn
- Empathise with the thoughts, feelings and experiences of others within the class and society in general
- Use ICT as appropriate to support their discovery of new information and to present the knowledge and skills they have gained

We will actively encourage:

- Open-mindedness
- Respect
- Tolerance
- Questioning
- Critical awareness
- Recognition of the value of the children's own religious experience

Syllabus followed and the time spent on Religious Education

At John Ruskin School we follow the Southwark Agreed Syllabus.

Through the syllabus we address the following religions: Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism.

The scheme of work is intended to ensure continuity and progression as the children move through the school.

In order to follow the syllabus effectively the following hours are devoted to Religious Education:

- KS1 36 hours per year
- KS2 45 hours per year

Legal Requirements

Religious Education will be taught to all children unless they are withdrawn at the request of their parents/guardians.

Any parents/guardians wishing to withdraw their children from Religious Education must see the Headteacher.

Equal Opportunities

At John Ruskin we recognise the effect that bias can have on a child's self image and learning.

We are committed to a continual examination of our attitudes, expectations and methods of working to ensure that both staff and pupils recognise and challenge bias which may devalue/promote particular religious beliefs, practices or denominations.

The planning of Religious Education will ensure full access to the Religious Education curriculum for all children, taking into account their individual learning needs.

Assessment Criteria

The QCA non-statutory guidelines for assessing pupil attainment in Religious Education will be used.

Religious Education will be assessed in line with the school's assessment policy for foundation subjects.

Resources

In order to teach Religious Education effectively a selection of the following resources should be made use of:

- Religious artefacts
- Reference materials (books, posters etc.)
- ICT
- Buildings in the area which have religious significance
- Human resources
- Resource packs/DVDs etc. recommended by the Agreed Syllabus which are available in the school library.

The role of the co-ordinator

The co-ordinator will:

- Monitor resources i.e. suitability /availability
- Monitor the implementation of the policy/planning
- Provide verbal and written feedback to staff about planning and assessment
- Inform and support new members of staff

Document Review

Policy written May 1999

Policy agreed with staff and governors- 1999

Policy review: June 2000

Policy reviewed June 2005

Policy revised October 2009

Policy reviewed 2012

Policy revised February 2016

This policy will be reviewed in the spring term 2019 and every three years thereafter.

The review will consider the appropriateness and effectiveness of Religious Education teaching within the school and whether INSET in the subject is necessary.

