Letchmore Infants' And Nursery School

Religious Education Policy



September 2026

Review Date – September 2028
(SACRE: 2023 – 2028)

1. Introduction

The Education Reform Act 1988 requires that the curriculum for every maintained school includes provision for religious education for all pupils. RE must be provided in accordance with The Hertfordshire Agreed syllabus for Religious Education 2023-2028, which must reflect the fact that the religious traditions of Great Britain are, in the main, Christian, whilst taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain. RE is concerned with 'learning about religion' and 'learning from religion'. It is not the practise of this school to preach or convert the children. The faith background of both staff and children is always respected. "RE is the open exploration of what people believe, their way of life and the impact of beliefs, values, and ways of living in local, national and global communities. It engages pupils in the process of understanding what others believe, what is important to them, how they live their lives and what influences them. In doing this, pupils also reflect on their own beliefs and their main influences." (SACRE 2023).

The new Agreed Syllabus 2023-2028 builds on the most recent national developments in RE, in particular the Commission on RE Report 2018, which advocates a "Worldviews Approach".
"A worldview is a person's way of understanding, experiencing and responding to the world. It can be described as a philosophy of life or an approach to life...A person's worldview is likely to influence and be influenced by their beliefs, values, behaviours, experiences, identities and communities." (Religion and Worldviews: The Way Forward p4).

RE offers distinctive and valid opportunities to promote pupils' interdisciplinary learning and spiritual, moral, social amd cultural development. It contributes to the development of beliefs and values and to schools' Prevent Duty to combat extremism. Dedicated RE lessons alongside whole school approaches, should allow for timely and sensitive response to be made to unforeseen events of a religious, moral or philosophical nature , including natural phenomena resulting in humanitarian responses, whether local, global or national.

2. Aims

Through RE at our school, we aim to enable children to begin to explore the following areas:

A. Sources of wisdom from religions and worldviews and their impact

- acquire and develop initial knowledge and understanding of the principal religions represented in Great Britain; these include Christianity, and at least one other Abrahamic religion (Judaism/Islam).
- Know, understand and explore the significance of sacred texts, other sources of wisdom and ways of expressing meaning
- Express ideas and insights about the nature of beliefs, values and practices and their impact on the identity of individuals and communities locally, nationally and globally
- Recognise and explore similarities and differences which exist within and between religious and non-religious world views

And develop their:

B. Personal and critical response to religion and worldviews.

- By expressing with increasing discernment their personal reflections, critical responses and connections to faith and belief enquiring into and responding to spiritual, philosophical, moral and ethical issues.

- By engaging with the questions and responses offered by religions and worldviews concerning ultimate questions and human responsibility.
- By developing the skills required to engage with other in dialogue and to cooperate in society with respect and compassion.
- By recognising the diversity of religions and non-religious world views in Great Britain, including those views represented in the school and its wider community.

3.Entitlement

'All maintained schools must provide religious education and daily collective worship for all registered pupils and promote their spiritual, moral and cultural development' DFE
Maintained schools, without a religious character should follow the locally agreed syllabus. SACRE
KS1 should have 60 hours of RE over 2 years (approximately 10 hours per term). This time can include visits and RE curriculum days but not school productions related to festivals or collective worship time.
Parents have the right to withdraw their children from RE.

4. Implementation

We will follow and use the Hertfordshire Agreed syllabus across EYFS and KS1 to ensure continuity and where possible make appropriate links to other curriculum areas. The RE syllabus has statutory content for each Key Stage:

EYFS: Children will encounter Christianity and religions and beliefs represented in the class, school or local community and beyond. RE will support a growing sense of the child's awareness of self, their own community and their place within this.

KS1: Christianity and **at least one** other Abrahamic religion are to be studied in depth (Judaism and/or Islam), or the predominant additional principal faith represented in the school. Pupils may also learn from other religions and world views in thematic units.

There are 8 key areas set out in the Statutory programmes of study and these can be taught in any order, recognising that progress made by pupils is not linear:
Beliefs and practices
Sources of wisdom
Symbols and actions
Prayer, worship and reflection
Identity and belonging
Ultimate questions
Human responsibility and values
Justice and fairness

Children will be taught in their normal class groups, divided into smaller groups, or work individually as necessary.
A variety of teaching methods will be used, including:

- knowledge given by teacher
- questions and answers
- individual and group enquiries
- use of IT
- use of books, artefacts and maps
- role play and drama
- creative activities
- visits to places of worship
- visits from faith leaders
- using children's personal experiences
- parents; by valuing the family background of the children and maintaining them as part of the school community.
- opportunities during continuous provision (CIL) to develop and promote RE learning.

5. Equal Opportunities and Inclusion

Activities are planned to ensure participation by all children, irrespective of religion, ability, gender, culture and ethnicity. Where recording is difficult children can give verbal answers or show through role play or art their understanding and opinions.

6. Recording Work

Children will be taught to use a variety of styles for presenting and recording their work, which may include:

- written reports
- use of ICT
- verbal discussions
- pictorial representation
- models
- artwork
- role play
- challenges during own learning time (CIL)

7. Assessment and Reporting

There are 8 Learning Outcomes for EYFS and 8 Learning Outcomes for KS1.
Teachers assess directly against these in KS1, using the Sticky Knowledge Grids, which are representative of these outcomes.
In EYFS RE learning makes up part of the achievement towards the Early Learning Goals, particularly in PSED and Understanding the World.

8. Resources

Published schemes	Photocopiable resources
Videos	Posters
Photographs	Books
Artefacts	Stories
People in the locality	Buildings in the locality
Teachers' resource books	

9. Collective Worship

Collective worship in maintained schools and academies of no religious designation must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, though not distinctive of any particular Christian denomination. Collective Worship must be daily. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from both RE and collective worship. Collective Worship at Letchmore Infant School is held in different groups, as a whole school, in year groups or in individual classes. Collective worship is designed to enhance the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the children. It is held in person, or through a selection of recordings. These focus on national or historical events, British Values, School Values, religious occasions and include opportunities to reflect on the learning in the worship. A candle is lit at the start and children are given time to quieten and prepare.

9. Background Information

This document is informed by reference to the Hertfordshire Agreed Syllabus of Religious Education.