



Holywell Church of England Primary School

Religious & Worldviews Education Policy

Written by: Helen Harland and Jo Barrett

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Our church school creates a firm foundation where together, with God's help and with the help of others, we are 'flowing, strengthening and deepening' 'like a tree firmly planted by streams of living water'.

Psalm 1:3

The legal position of religious education at Holywell Church of England (VC) Primary School

Holywell C E Primary School is a voluntary controlled school maintained by Cambridgeshire Local Authority. The Religious & Worldviews Education curriculum forms an important part of our school's spiritual, moral and social teaching. It also promotes education for citizenship and supports our school ethos and values. Our school Religious & Worldviews Education curriculum is based on SACRE and Cambridgeshire Local Authority's Agreed Syllabus 2023-2028. (Please see our school website /the end of this document for the link to this)

The legal requirements relating to Religious Education are set out in the Education Act 1996 and the Education Standards and Framework Act 1998. The main requirements are that:

- Religious education should be provided for all registered pupils in schools.
 - In county maintained and Voluntary-Controlled schools religious education must be taught in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus.
 - An agreed syllabus must reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, whilst taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in the country.
 - What is taught must not be limited to any particular religious denomination, though these may be studied.
- As part of the basic curriculum, religious education should promote pupils' broader personal development.

Aims and Objectives

At Holywell C E Primary School we develop the children's knowledge and understanding of the major world faiths, whilst keeping a focus on the twelve Christian values which underpin our school. Children reflect on what it means to have faith and to develop their own worldview of the subject.

“Worldview ‘describes the way in which a person encounters, interprets, understands and engages with the world.

The Cambridgeshire Agreed Syllabus 2023-28 page 7.

We help the children to learn from religions as well as about religions.

The aims of Religious & Worldviews Education are for pupils to:

Acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and the other principal religions represented in the UK.

- Develop an understanding of the influence of beliefs (both religious and secular) values and traditions on individuals, communities, societies and cultures
- Develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious issues, with reference to the teachings of the principal religions represented in Cambridgeshire and the UK
- Encourage openness to ask questions and search for answers of meaning and purpose for themselves
- Enhance their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development by developing an awareness of the fundamental questions raised by human experiences, and of how religious teachings can relate to them.
- Responding to such questions with reference to the teachings and practices of religions and other belief systems, relating them to their own understanding and experience
- Reflecting on their own beliefs, values and experiences in the light of their study.
- In addition the school strives to promote Religious Literacy:

“Religious literacy is the knowledge of, and ability to understand, religion, beliefs, practices, spiritual insights and secular world views.”

The Cambridgeshire Agreed Syllabus 2023-2028 page 13.

The contribution made by RE teaching to other curricular aims

Learning and teaching activities in Religious & Worldviews Education contribute to the achievement of curriculum aims for all children and young people to become successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens. Pupils are able to acquire knowledge and respond thoughtfully. They also develop morally, socially, spiritually and culturally in order to become more confident and aware citizens.

Approaches to teaching Religious & Worldviews Education

We base our teaching and learning style in Religious & Worldviews Education on the key principle that good teaching in the subject allows children both to learn about religious traditions and to reflect on what the religious ideas and concept 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 Religious & Worldviews Education curriculum.

We follow the locally agreed syllabus for Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and Rutland 2023-2028 and we use Understanding Christianity alongside the Emmanuel Project as resources.

Our Teaching and learning and Holywell, enables children to develop their skills in two main ways- broadly knowing about religions and worldviews and reflecting upon them. These progress targets are described below:

“ PT1 - Knowledge and understanding of religion and worldviews

Enquiring into, investigating and understanding religions and beliefs. This includes thinking about and interpreting religious beliefs, teachings, sources, practices, ways of life, and ways of expressing meaning with reference to the specific beliefs and religions studied.

PT2 – Responding to religion and worldviews

Questioning, exploring, reflecting upon and interpreting human experience in the light of religions and beliefs studied. This includes communicating reflections, responses and evaluations about questions of identity, belonging, diversity, meaning, purpose, truth, values, and commitments making increasingly insightful links to the specific religions studied.”

from page 24 of The Cambridgeshire Agreed Syllabus 2023-28

How Religious & Worldviews Education is organised

We plan our religious education curriculum in accordance with the Cambridgeshire LA Agreed Syllabus. The programme of topics we teach is set out in the Long Term Plan for Religious & Worldviews Education and there is a timetable for the teaching of the subject also available on the school website.

We ensure the topics studied in religious education build upon prior learning and links are made with curricular themes where possible. 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 recognise the fact that all classes in our school have children of 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. Teachers achieve this by differentiating the plans and resources from Understanding Christianity and The Emmanuel Project to meet the needs of all learners in the class. At Holywell, we aim to achieve a balanced Religious & Worldviews Education curriculum that meets the needs of the children in our school community.

Foundation Stage

Religious and Worldviews Education in EYFS supports the seven areas of learning and development set out in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Framework. We use a multi-sensory approach, providing opportunities for pupils

to learn and understand about themselves, others (personal and social development) and the world (understanding the world) and to develop pupils' abilities to express themselves (communication and language, literacy, expressive arts).

Pupils are encouraged to develop positive attitudes towards other people and their right to hold different beliefs.

Teaching in Foundation Stage helps pupils to begin:

- Identifying their own uniqueness and that of others
- Appreciating the differences and similarities they encounter in others
- Making distinctions between good and bad, right and wrong.

Please see the school's Long Term Plan for Religious & Worldviews Education for the current units taught in Foundation Stage from the EYFS document. In foundation Stage RE is taught for a minimum of 30 hours per academic year.

Key Stage 1

Over the key stage children study 12 units of work-

Please see the school's Long Term Plan for Religious & Worldviews Education for the current units taught in Key Stage 1. In Key Stage 1 RE is taught for a minimum of 36 hours per academic year.

Key Stage 2

During this key stage we deliver 24 units of study, lasting approximately half a term each.

Please see the school's Long Term Plan for RE for the current units taught in Key Stage 2. In Key Stage 2 RE is taught for a minimum of 45 hours per academic year.

Resources

We have a range of resources in our school to teach RE including books, objects, video clips Understanding Christianity and the Emmanuel Project. Where possible we welcome visitors of major world faiths and worldviews to talk to the children and visit places of worship. We use the New Living Translation Kids Bible.

Arrangements for assessment and recording

At Holywell CE Primary School Teachers make judgements based on the End of Year Progress Statements from the locally agreed syllabus for Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and Rutland 2023-2028 (Years 1 to 6).

These statements help to inform a teacher's end of year assessment about whether a child has met the expectations for the year- (Expected) or below it (Working Towards). Attainment in Religious & Worldviews Education is reported annually to parents in the end of year report.

Children will receive verbal and written feedback throughout the Religious & Worldviews Education unit to help them move forward with their learning. Teachers also assess children's knowledge, understanding and skills in Religious & Worldviews Education by making observations of children working during lessons by listening to their verbal contributions in discussions and debates.

We record assessments regularly, usually at the end of each term, in order to monitor progress effectively. Children's Religious & Worldviews Education Books are regularly scrutinized by the link governor and senior leaders.

Religious & Worldviews Education makes a strong contribution to the Christian character of the school; we try to ensure that the children are willing and enthusiastic to reflect and consider of their personal, spiritual development.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The locally agreed syllabus for Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and Rutland 2023-2028 and associated documents can be found at:

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/asset-library/agreed-syllabus-2023-28.pdf>

- Holywell Primary School's Long Term Plan for Religious and Worldviews Education, which can be found on the school website.
- Holywell Primary School's Religious and Worldviews, Statement of Intent, Implementation and Impact, which can be found on the school website.

Responsibilities

The Chair of Governors is Mrs Debbie Woo.

The Head teacher is Mr Paul Baddeley.

The governor responsible for Religious & Worldviews Education is Mrs Carol Peilow.

The Subject Leader for Religious & Worldviews Education is Mrs Helen Harland and Mrs Jo Barrett

Right of parental withdrawal from Religious & Worldviews Education

Since 1944, all schools have been required to teach RE to all pupils on the school roll, except when parents' exercise their right to withdraw their children from the subject. Should parents have any concerns regarding the teaching of Religious & Worldviews Education in school or any aspect of school Religious & Worldviews Education visits, or wish to withdraw their child from Religious & Worldviews Education please make an appointment to speak with the Headteacher.

Review date

This policy will be reviewed in October 2028

EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT:

- Educational standards in Religious & Worldviews Education and the whole curriculum are inspected by OFSTED on a regular basis.
- Every four years the School is inspected by the Church of England Education Office & Methodist Church (SIAMS).