



# Westgate Academy

## Religious Education Policy

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Approved by: Local Committee

### 1 Introduction

1.1 Religious Education is unique in the school curriculum in that it is neither a core subject nor a foundation subject but the 1988 Education Act states that 'Religious Education has equal standing in relation to core subjects of the National Curriculum in that it is compulsory for all registered pupils'.

1.2 Religious Education is taught in our school because it makes:

“a major contribution to the education of children and young people. At its best, it is intellectually challenging and personally enriching. It helps young people develop beliefs and values, and promotes the virtues of respect and empathy, which are important in our diverse society. It fosters civilised debate and reasoned argument, and helps pupils to understand the place of religion and belief in the modern world”.

(RE: realising the potential, Ofsted 2013).

1.3 We deliver RE in line with the Lincolnshire Locally Agreed Syllabus for RE and use the Jigsaw RE programme as our scheme of work. At Westgate Academy, we call RE – Religion and Worldviews.

1.4 This RE policy is informed by current national guidance:

- RE in English Schools: Non-statutory guidance 2010 ([https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/190260/DCSF-00114-2010.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/190260/DCSF-00114-2010.pdf))
- RE : realising the potential Ofsted 2013 ([www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/religious-education-realising-potential](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/religious-education-realising-potential))
- A Curriculum Framework for RE in England, REC 2013 (<http://resubjectreview.recouncil.org.uk/re-review-report>)

### 2 The aims of our RE, using the Jigsaw RE Scheme of Work

2.1 Jigsaw RE meets the requirements of our locally agreed syllabus and is aligned to the non- statutory guidance described above.

2.2 By following Jigsaw RE at Westgate Academy we intend that Religious Education will:-

- **adopt an enquiry- based approach** as recommended by Ofsted, beginning with the children’s own life experience before moving into learning about and from religion.
- **provoke challenging questions** about the meaning and purpose of life, beliefs, the self, and issues of right and wrong, commitment and belonging. It develops 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** (religious or non-religious), 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.
- **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. It encourages empathy, generosity and compassion.

- develop a sense of awe, wonder and mystery.
- nurture children's own spiritual development.

### 3 Jigsaw RE Content

Year	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
	Locality		Belonging / Community		Learning from Ancient Times	
3	<b>Christianity</b> Could Jesus heal people? Did He perform miracles or was there some other explanation?	<b>Christianity</b> Has Christmas lost its true meaning?	<b>Islam</b> 7-9 (1) Does praying at regular intervals help Muslims in their everyday life?	<b>Islam</b> 7-9 (2) Does completing a pilgrimage make a person a better Muslim?	<b>Judaism</b> How do Jewish beliefs, teachings and stories impact on daily life? <i>Visit to The Jews House</i>	<b>Judaism</b> How does celebrating Shavuot help Jewish children feel closer to God?
4	<b>Christianity</b> Do people need to go to church to show they are Christians? <i>Visit to Cathedral or church</i>	<b>Christianity</b> What is the most significant part of the Nativity story for Christians today?	<b>Christianity</b> Why are there four Gospels and how are they relevant for Christians?	<b>Sanatana Dharma</b> 7-9 (1) Does visiting the Ganges make a person a better Sanatani?	<b>Sanatana Dharma</b> 7-9 (2) What do some deities tell Sanatanis about God? <i>Visit to Mandir</i>	<b>Sanatana Dharma</b> 7-9 (3) What is the best way for a Sanatani to lead a good life? <i>Visitor</i>
5	<b>Christianity</b> What is the best way for a Christian to show commitment to God?	<b>Christianity</b> Is the Christmas story true?	<b>Islam</b> What is the best way for a Muslim to show commitment to God?	<b>Christianity</b> How significant is it for Christians to believe that God intended Jesus to die?	<b>Islam</b> How is the Qur'an vital to Muslims today? <i>Visit the Mosque</i>	<b>Islam</b> Does belief in Akhirah (life after death) help Muslims lead a good life?
6	<b>Christianity</b> Does belief in the Trinity help Christians make better sense of God as a whole?	<b>Christianity</b> Do Christian celebrations and traditions help Christians understand who Jesus was and why he was born?	<b>Ethical Veganism</b> How do inspirational vegans impact on how people might live today?	<b>Humanism</b> How do inspirational people impact on how Humanists live today? <i>Visitor</i>	<b>Christianity</b> Is anything ever eternal?	<b>Christianity</b> Is Christianity still a strong religion over 2000 years after Jesus was on Earth?

### 4 How is RE organised in this school?

4.1 Jigsaw RE brings together learning about and from religion, questioning and spiritual development in a comprehensive scheme of learning. Teaching strategies are varied and are mindful of teaching and learning theories and the need for adaptive teaching. Each enquiry starts from the children's own life experiences using these as a bridge into the investigation of the religion being studied. We teach this subject discretely.

4.2 Learning is assessed and children have opportunity to express their own thoughts and beliefs and empathise with believers of that religion or belief position.

### 5 SEND Provision

5.1 Jigsaw RE is written as a universal core curriculum provision for all children. Inclusivity is part of its philosophy. Teachers will add to the planning to meet the needs of the children in their classes. To support this, many enquiries suggest creative learning activities that allow children to choose the media with which they work and give them scope to work to their full potential. To further help teachers adapt the teaching, for children in KS1 and 2, each enquiry has

exemplars for those children working towards the learning objective, at the expected level for this age group and those working beyond the expected level of achievement.

## **6 Assessment**

6.1 Teachers are eager to ensure children are making progress with their learning throughout their RE. Therefore, each enquiry has built-in assessment. This task is the formal opportunity for teacher assessment of the children's knowledge of that religion, depth of critical thinking, and ability to answer the enquiry question. This stand-alone evidence is used in conjunction with other evidence such as records of discussions, recorded work and annotations from other lessons within the enquiry to assist the teacher in assessing whether a child is working at the expected level or towards or beyond it. Children are assessed over three aspects of learning:

- a personal resonance with or reflection on the material/religion being studied to answer the enquiry question.
- knowledge and understanding of the material/religion being studied to answer the enquiry question.
- evaluation/critical thinking in relation to the enquiry question

6.2 These are tracked throughout the planning stage so that teachers can utilise the appropriate evidence accordingly. In line with non-statutory guidance issued by the RE Council in 2013 (cited on page 1) descriptors of these aspects utilise age-related expectations of working towards, working at the expected attainment and working beyond.

## **7 Recording and tracking progress**

7.1 To support the teacher in tracking each child's progress throughout the year, there is an overview sheet for each enquiry on which to record the progress of the whole class. This supports teacher overview and facilitates subject leader monitoring and moderation.

## **8 Reporting to Parents/Carers**

8.1 The assessment process described above helps teachers report to parents/carers. Jigsaw RE enquiries give teachers meaningful evidence to cite in reports.

## **9 The Attainment Descriptors**

9.1 The attainment descriptors contained within Jigsaw RE are 3 fold to match with what the majority of schools are using, although their language may be different.

## **10 Monitoring and evaluation**

10.1 The RE leader monitors delivery of the programme through observation and discussion with teaching staff, as well as discussions with children and scrutiny of their written work to ensure consistent and coherent curriculum provision.

10.2 Evaluation of the programme's effectiveness is conducted on the basis of:

- Pupil and teacher evaluation of the content and learning processes
- Staff meetings to review and share experience
- Monitoring of assessment to ensure progression throughout the school.

## **11 External contributors**

11.1 RE gives particular opportunities to promote an ethos of respect for others, challenge stereotypes and build understanding of other cultures and beliefs. This contributes to promoting a positive and inclusive school ethos that champions democratic values and human rights. The British Values agenda is intrinsic to Jigsaw RE.

11.2 External contributors from the community, e.g. local clergy, local members/speakers from other religions etc make a valuable contribution to the RE programme as do visits to places of worship. Their input is carefully planned and monitored so as to fit into and complement the programme.

Teachers are always present during these sessions and remain responsible for the effective delivery of the RE programme.

## **12 The Learning Environment**

12.1 Establishing a safe, open and positive learning environment based on trusting relationships between all members of the class, adults and children alike, is vital. To enable this, it is important that respect for each others' views and

beliefs and those of the believers of that religion is encouraged at all times and that any artefacts are handled with respect and care. For this reason we provide the Jigsaw RE Charter.

### **13 Teaching Sensitive and Controversial Issues**

13.1 Sensitive and controversial issues are certain to arise in learning from real-life experience and discussing personal beliefs.

13.2 Topics are presented using a variety of views and beliefs so that pupils are able to form their own, informed opinions but also respect that others have the right to different opinions. Teachers should never feel obliged to discuss their own beliefs unless they feel comfortable doing so and can ensure that this will not influence or restrict the children's own expression.

### **14 Involving parents and carers**

14.1 The school believes that it is important to have the support of parents, carers and the wider community for the RE programme. Parents and carers are/will be given the opportunity to find out about and discuss RE through:

- \* Response to RE consultation
- \* Newsletters
- \* Displays

### **15 Withdrawal from RE lessons**

15.1 Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the Religious Education. Those parents/carers wishing to exercise this right are invited in to see the head teacher who will explore any concerns and discuss any impact that withdrawal may have on the child. The school will ensure that parents who want to withdraw their children from RE are aware of the RE syllabus and that it is relevant to all pupils, and respects their own personal beliefs. Parents will be made aware of the learning objectives and what is covered in the RE curriculum and should be given the opportunity to discuss this, if they wish. The school may also wish to review such a request each year, in discussion with the parents.

15.2 The use of the right to withdraw should be at the instigation of parents and it should be made clear whether it is from the whole of the subject or specific parts of it. No reasons need be given.

### **16 Training and support for staff**

16.1 All staff benefit from training in order to enhance their RE delivery skills. Opportunities are provided for staff to identify individual training needs on a yearly basis and relevant support is provided.

### **17 Policy Review**

17.1 This policy is reviewed annually.