



Foxhole
Learning
Academy



Religious Education Policy

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Statutory or Best Practice Policy	Best Practice
School or Trust Policy	School

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Introduction

At Foxhole Learning Academy, we value and celebrate the diverse range of beliefs and values held by individuals in our school – both staff and pupils. We believe that these beliefs and values need to be shared and explored, and that they are important lenses through which we can understand attitudes and behaviours. As a school, we emphasise the importance of nurturing and enhancing children’s knowledge of different religions and worldviews in order to help them understand and respect others’ views, ultimately preparing them for life in a diverse and multicultural society. Our Religious Education (RE) curriculum is therefore designed to develop children’s awareness of a range of religions and beliefs that shape their local community and the wider world, linking and comparing these with their own values, opinions and ideas.

RE provides children with the opportunity to ask and answer questions about key areas, such as the meaning and purpose of life, beliefs about God, and issues of right and wrong. It teaches children qualities such as empathy and respect for others, key skills that are crucial to living in today’s widely diverse society. Our RE curriculum will help to support children’s personal development, whilst making key links to other parts of the school curriculum such as personal, social and emotional development (PSED) and citizenship. It will allow the children the opportunity to explore their own beliefs and views on the world, and deepen their understanding of the importance of religion for others – individually, communally and cross- culturally.

The RE Curriculum

Foxhole Learning Academy follows the Cornwall Agreed Syllabus (2020-2025) for the teaching of Religious Education (RE).

‘RE is not simply about gaining knowledge and understanding about religions and beliefs. It also helps pupils to develop their own understanding of the world and how to live, in the light of their learning, developing understanding, skills and attitudes. It makes a significant contribution to pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, as well as important opportunities for exploring British values.’

Cornwall Agreed Syllabus 2020-2025

Syllabus Aims

The Cornwall Agreed Syllabus states that:

‘The principal aim of religious education is to explore what people believe and what difference this makes to how they live, so that pupils can gain the knowledge, understanding and skills



needed to handle questions raised by religion and belief, reflecting on their own ideas and ways of living’.

Cornwall Agreed Syllabus 2020-2025

Our RE curriculum will allow the children at Foxhole Learning Academy to develop a deep understanding of a range of religions (Christianity, Judaism, Islam and Hinduism), alongside other worldviews. These religions will be studied in depth throughout the year, both in single units of work, and in thematic units where ideas and values from each religion are combined and compared.

Teaching and learning approach

Foxhole Learning Academy aims to deliver a consistently high-quality approach to RE. It will do so by not only delivering key knowledge in teaching sessions to prepare pupils for life in wider society, but also by celebrating equality and diversity throughout school life – including during Collective Worship and pastoral matters. This will promote inclusion and tolerance within the school community, whilst also assisting in building and maintaining wider community cohesion.

Our approach to the teaching of Religious Education in Foxhole Learning Academy, is built around the Cornwall Agreed Syllabus’ three main aims:

1. Making sense of a range of religious beliefs
2. Understanding the impact and significance of religious and non-religious beliefs
3. Making connections between religious and non-religious beliefs, concepts, practise and ideas studied.

Every unit of work (per half term) will combine each of these three elements and will be delivered through a range of exciting opportunities. To further support teachers we will use the comprehensive resource ‘Understanding Christianity’ which links directly to the Christianity units.

Foxhole Learning Academy will develop and maintain a range of religious artefacts within the school to support children’s learning in RE. This will enable a practical approach to building knowledge and understanding within our lessons.

Time spent on RE

Foxhole Learning Academy will deliver a broad and balanced RE curriculum that meets national legal requirements, for all pupils registered at the school, unless they have been withdrawn (in writing to the Headteacher) by their parents. It will do so by ensuring that:

- Children in the Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage One have 36 hours of RE every year.
- Children in Key Stage Two will receive 42 hours of RE every year.



Religions covered in each Key Stage

In our Reception class, children will encounter Christianity and other faiths present in their communities. Our RE teaching is in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum – particularly focusing on the ‘Understanding the World’ Early Learning Goal.

In Key Stage 1, children will start exploring Christianity, Judaism and Islam in more depth, and will expand their knowledge of these, alongside Hinduism, in Key Stage 2.

The Cornwall Agreed Syllabus uses a spiral curriculum approach – whereby pupils have the opportunity to revisit the same themes and religions as they move up through the different year groups, exploring them at a deeper level and with increasing complexity. This enables pupils to consolidate and build upon their existing knowledge, whilst deepening their understanding and skills. At each point, the learning objectives will be explained to the pupils through child-friendly language, and measured by age-appropriate success criteria.

Withdrawal from RE learning

Whilst our approach to RE is open, broad, and explores a range of religious and nonreligious worldviews, parents have the legal right to be able to withdraw their child from RE lessons, or any part of the RE curriculum. This must be requested in writing to the Headteacher.

Links to PSHE, SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development) and Citizenship

RE will enable children at Foxhole Learning Academy to develop a wealth of knowledge and skills linked to PSHE, SMSC and Citizenship. Children will learn skills such as appreciation, fairness and empathy, collaboration, and self-awareness. It will help them to learn about and make judgements linked to moral concepts such as right and wrong, and gain an understanding of how their actions can impact others. Children will be provided with the opportunity to share their own ideas and opinions, whilst learning how to listen to, and respect, others’ views.

RE will enable children to learn about religions and views important to people within their local community of Foxhole, in the wider community of Cornwall, throughout the United Kingdom and in the wider world. It will help them to learn to respect others’ beliefs, and challenge pre-existing stereotypes or ideas that could result in racism or discrimination.

Links to British Values

RE at Foxhole Learning Academy will enable children to learn about and understand British Values, ultimately developing attitudes of tolerance and respect; allowing them to celebrate the diversity within the world in which they live.



Pupils with SEND and additional needs

Inclusion and an adapted learning approach for children with additional needs, including English as an Additional Language (EAL), and Gifted and Talented pupils, will be taken into account within all planning and teaching, as they are in all areas of our curriculum.

Assessment and recording

Pupils will be expected to present their learning in RE to a high standard, following the school's expectations for presentation. High quality displays of the children's learning is encouraged within classrooms, alongside whole school displays throughout the school. Children will record their learning for each unit of work in their curriculum exercise books. Every class will also have a curriculum floor book, which will record group discussions and ideas, small group/whole class projects and the practical elements of the subject, such as drama, art, music or visits/workshops.

Children's learning in RE will be assessed formatively by the class teacher throughout all lessons and will be marked in line with the school's feedback on learning policy. Outcomes from the lesson will then inform future planning, including areas of learning that require further support.

Monitoring and Review

Monitoring of the school's teaching and learning approach to RE, including review of individual lesson plans and learning outcomes will take place each term by the RE Subject Leader. Pupil conferencing will also take place throughout the year, to assess children's retention of knowledge and opinions about the subject. The results from these will be used to inform and enhance relevant staff training. The effectiveness of the Curriculum and this RE policy shall be reviewed annually (or when the need arises) by the RE Subject Leader, as well as members of the Senior Leadership team.

Related Policies

The following policies should be read in conjunction with this policy:

- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Assessment and feedback policy
- Behaviour and Relationships policy
- Collective Worship Policy
- Equality and diversity policy
- E-safety policy
- Racial equality policy
- RSE policy
- Safeguarding policy