Anderton Primary School
Religious Education Policy

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Religion and Worldviews (Religious Education) Policy

Policy Date: November 2026
Subject Leader: Rachel Norton-Smith

Vision

At Anderton Primary School, we believe that Religion and Worldviews education plays a vital role in helping pupils understand themselves, others and the diverse world in which they live. Through the study of religions, worldviews and lived experiences, pupils develop curiosity, respect, empathy and critical thinking.

Our Religion and Worldviews curriculum encourages children to explore questions of meaning, identity, belonging, morality and purpose while developing knowledge and understanding of a range of religious and non-religious worldviews. We aim to prepare pupils for life in modern Britain by fostering respect for diversity and promoting inclusion, tolerance and mutual understanding.

Aims

The aims of Religion and Worldviews education at Anderton Primary School are to:

- Develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of Christianity and a range of religious and non-religious worldviews.
- Enable pupils to explore how beliefs, values and practices influence individuals, communities and societies.
- Encourage critical thinking, discussion, questioning and reflection.
- Promote respect for diversity and challenge prejudice and misconceptions.
- Support pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- Help children understand the concepts of religion, belief, identity and worldview.
- Equip pupils with the knowledge and skills needed to engage thoughtfully with different perspectives.
- Encourage pupils to reflect upon their own experiences, beliefs and values while respecting those of others.

Legal Requirements

Religion and Worldviews education is provided in accordance with:

- The Education Reform Act 1988.
- The School Standards and Framework Act 1998.
- The Lancashire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education.
- Guidance from the Religious Education Council.
- The Equality Act 2010.

As required by law:

- All registered pupils participate in Religious Education unless withdrawn by a parent or carer.
- RE is part of the basic curriculum and is distinct from Collective Worship.
- Teaching reflects that religious traditions in Great Britain are principally Christian whilst taking account of the other principal religions represented in Britain.

Curriculum Intent

At Anderton Primary School, Religion and Worldviews education is designed to develop pupils' understanding of both organised religions and non-religious ways of understanding the world.

Children will learn:

About Religion and Worldviews

- Key beliefs, teachings and practices.
- Religious texts, stories and traditions.
- Diversity within religions.
- The role of religion in local, national and global communities.
- How worldviews shape people's lives and choices.

Through Religion and Worldviews

- Reflection on their own beliefs and values.
- Respectful debate and discussion.
- Appreciation of similarities and differences.
- Understanding of identity, belonging and community.
- Consideration of ethical and moral issues.

Curriculum Implementation

Our curriculum is structured to ensure progression in both substantive knowledge and disciplinary skills from Reception to Year 6.

The curriculum:

- Builds upon children's own experiences and understanding of the world.
- Explores Christianity as the principal religion studied throughout school.
- Includes sustained study of Islam and Hinduism.
- Introduces Judaism, Sikhism and Buddhism across both key stages.
- Recognises that individuals within the same religion may hold differing beliefs and practices.
- Includes opportunities to study non-religious worldviews where appropriate.
- Encourages enquiry-based learning through key questions and investigations.

The curriculum is delivered through carefully sequenced units that revisit key concepts and deepen understanding over time.

Teaching and Learning

Teachers use a range of approaches to engage and challenge pupils, including:

- Enquiry and discussion.
- Storytelling.
- Drama and role play.
- Art, music and creative responses.
- Philosophy for Children (P4C) approaches.
- Research and investigation.
- Use of artefacts and religious texts.
- Educational visits.
- Visitors from faith and belief communities.
- Digital resources and multimedia.

Learning activities encourage pupils to:

- Ask and answer meaningful questions.
- Make connections between ideas.
- Evaluate differing viewpoints.
- Use appropriate subject vocabulary.
- Reflect on their own thinking and learning.

Teaching recognises that pupils may come from a range of religious and non-religious backgrounds and creates a respectful environment where all contributions are valued.

Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

At Anderton Primary School, we are committed to ensuring that all pupils have equal access to high-quality Religion and Worldviews education.

We will:

- Provide appropriate challenge and support for all learners.
- Adapt learning to meet the needs of pupils with SEND.
- Recognise and value pupils' lived experiences and family backgrounds.
- Promote equality, diversity and inclusion.
- Challenge stereotypes and discriminatory attitudes.

All pupils are encouraged to participate fully regardless of faith, belief, ethnicity, gender, disability or family background.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

Religion and Worldviews education makes a significant contribution to SMSC development through opportunities to:

- Explore beliefs, values and meaning.
- Develop self-awareness and reflection.
- Discuss moral and ethical issues.

- Understand different cultures and traditions.
- Celebrate diversity within modern Britain.
- Develop respectful relationships and positive citizenship.

Assessment

Assessment is an ongoing process used to inform planning and support pupil progress.

Teachers assess pupils through:

- Discussion and questioning.
- Written outcomes.
- Creative responses.
- Research activities.
- Presentations and debates.
- End-of-unit assessment tasks.

Assessment focuses on both:

- Knowledge and understanding of religions and worldviews.
- Disciplinary skills such as enquiry, interpretation, analysis and evaluation.

Progress is reported to parents annually through written reports.

Community Links and Enrichment

To bring learning to life, pupils are provided with opportunities to engage with local communities and places of worship.

These may include:

- Church visits.
- Mosque visits.
- Visits to temples or gurdwaras where possible.
- Virtual visits and workshops.
- Visitors representing religious and non-religious worldviews.
- Participation in community events and cultural celebrations.

These experiences help pupils gain authentic understanding of lived religion and belief.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Subject Leader will monitor the quality of Religion and Worldviews education through:

- Learning walks.
- Pupil voice activities.
- Planning scrutiny.
- Work sampling.
- Assessment analysis.
- Professional discussions with staff.

Findings will inform subject development planning and professional development priorities.

Withdrawal from RE

Parents have the legal right to withdraw their child from all or part of Religious Education. Any requests should be made in writing to the Headteacher. The school will discuss arrangements and alternative provision where appropriate.

Teachers also retain the legal right to withdraw from teaching RE.

Roles and Responsibilities

Subject Leader

The Subject Leader will:

- Lead curriculum development.
- Support and coach staff.
- Monitor standards and provision.
- Manage resources effectively.
- Keep abreast of local and national developments.
- Report to governors on subject effectiveness.

Class Teachers

Class teachers are responsible for:

- Delivering high-quality Religion and Worldviews lessons.
- Assessing pupil progress.
- Maintaining an inclusive and respectful learning environment.
- Contributing to curriculum development and evaluation.

Governors

Governors will monitor the effectiveness of the curriculum and ensure statutory requirements are met.

Conclusion

Religion and Worldviews education at Anderton Primary School provides pupils with the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to engage positively with an increasingly diverse society. Through the exploration of religious and non-religious worldviews, pupils develop respect, curiosity and confidence as thoughtful members of their communities and the wider world.