



Meridian Primary School

Religious Education and Worldviews Policy

March 2026

Rationale

At Meridian Primary School, Religion and Worldviews is an important part of the curriculum and contributes significantly to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development. It provides opportunities for children to explore life's big questions, reflect on their own beliefs and values and develop understanding and respect for the beliefs of others.

Religious Education helps pupils make sense of their own experiences and understand the beliefs and practices of members of different faith and non-religious communities. It encourages curiosity, empathy and thoughtful reflection.

Religious Education is a statutory subject in all maintained schools. Meridian Primary School has designed its own Religion Education and Worldviews curriculum, supported by the Cambridgeshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2023–2028, which provides a clear framework for progression in knowledge, skills and understanding and key vocabulary.

Religion and Worldviews at Meridian is taught within an educational framework. It does not seek to promote a particular religious or non-religious viewpoint but instead aims to help pupils engage thoughtfully with a range of perspectives.

Aims

Through the teaching of Religion and Worldviews we aim for pupils to:

- Develop knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews, appreciating diversity and respecting different beliefs.
- Express ideas and insights about the significance and impact of beliefs on individuals, communities and societies.
- Develop skills of enquiry, reflection and critical thinking, engaging with questions of meaning and purpose.
- Reflect upon their own experiences, beliefs and values.
- Build respect, tolerance and understanding in line with British Values, including mutual respect and individual liberty.

The Cambridgeshire Agreed Syllabus is based on three key themes:

- Learning about religion and belief
- Learning from religion and belief
- Developing personal beliefs, values and sense of identity

Curriculum

Religion and Worldviews supports our wellbeing curriculum by giving pupils time to express and reflect on their own ideas, identity and beliefs. This helps children understand themselves and others while developing empathy, thoughtfulness and positive values.

In the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), learning focuses primarily on Christianity and the beliefs and religions represented within the class community. Children explore themes such as special books, special places, special people and

celebrations. These experiences encourage pupils to recognise similarities and differences and begin to develop respect for different beliefs and traditions.

In Key Stage 1, pupils deepen their understanding of Christian beliefs and practices while also being introduced to other major religions. Units may include special books and stories, celebrations and places of worship. Pupils also begin learning about Sikhism and Islam. Learning takes place through stories, artefacts, celebrations and practical experiences, helping pupils develop curiosity, interest and empathy.

In Key Stage 2, pupils learn about and compare the major world religions as well as non-religious worldviews such as Humanism. They develop their understanding by examining the origins of religions, exploring religious texts, and learning about ways of worship, pilgrimages and ceremonies. Pupils recognise diversity within religious and non-religious communities and research inspirational figures to consider how beliefs can influence people's lives and actions. Through discussion, debate and creative expression, pupils analyse important themes such as forgiveness, justice and identity, developing greater insight into their own ideas and values.

Teaching and Learning

Religion and Worldviews is taught weekly in every class across the school. It is usually taught as a discrete subject but may sometimes link with other areas of the curriculum where appropriate.

Lessons include retrieval practice for a minimum of ten minutes in order to strengthen knowledge and improve long-term retention. Key vocabulary from the unit is displayed in the classroom alongside relevant vocabulary from previous learning to support pupils' understanding.

Teaching approaches include discussion, enquiry, reflection, storytelling, the use of artefacts and religious texts, and opportunities for creative expression. Where possible, visits to places of worship and visits from members of faith or belief communities are arranged to enrich learning and provide real-life experiences.

Assessment and Progression

Assessment in Religion and Worldviews is carried out by class teachers and monitored by the subject leader, Senior Leadership Team and governors. Teachers assess learning through observation, discussion, written outcomes and creative work.

Assessment is guided by the end of year progression targets provided by the local authority. These focus on two areas.

PT1 Knowledge and understanding of religion and worldviews. 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. This includes questioning, exploring, reflecting upon and interpreting human experience in the light of religions and beliefs

studied. Pupils communicate reflections, responses and evaluations about questions of identity and make increasingly insightful links to the religions studied.

Equal Opportunities and Inclusion

Religion and Worldviews is for all pupils, regardless of faith, background or belief. Adaptations are planned to meet the needs of all pupils, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and higher attaining pupils. These may include adapted tasks, additional adult support, visual resources and alternative methods of recording.

Visits to places of worship and opportunities to share stories, traditions and experiences encourage all children to participate fully in learning.

Religion and Worldviews at Meridian Primary School is not about promoting a particular religious or non-religious viewpoint. Instead it helps pupils engage thoughtfully with different perspectives while fostering the school values of resilience, kindness, community, respect and curiosity.

Withdrawal

Parents have the legal right to withdraw their child from Religious Education, either fully or partially. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from teaching the subject.

Meridian Primary School aims to provide an open and inclusive curriculum that can be taught to all pupils by all staff. Before making a decision about withdrawal, parents are encouraged to discuss their concerns with the Headteacher.

Requests for withdrawal should be made in writing to the Headteacher and a record will be kept by the school.

Monitoring and Review

The teaching and learning of Religion and Worldviews is monitored by the subject leader and Senior Leadership Team through book looks, lesson observations, teacher discussions and pupil voice. Monitoring also includes reviewing planning to ensure appropriate curriculum coverage and progression.

As a member of NATRE and the Cambridgeshire RE network group, the subject leader keeps staff up to date with current research, resources and developments in the subject. The leader also organises relevant staff training and professional development opportunities.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed in line with the school's policy review schedule or sooner if there are significant changes to the agreed syllabus or statutory requirements.