

Burlington Infant School: Religion and Worldviews Policy

Burlington Infant School



Religion and Worldviews Policy

Date:	November 2022
Date Due for Review	Annually
Approved By:	Full Governing Body

Burlington Infant School: Religion and Worldviews Policy

Religion and Worldviews Policy

“Always do your best and be your best”

Introduction

At Burlington Infant School we believe that Religion and Worldviews both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Our caring ethos and the value which we place on the personal development of the whole child - spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually - is reflected in the Religion and Worldviews curriculum, and plays a significant part in the child’s ability to learn and achieve.

At Burlington Infant School we believe that Religion and Worldviews has an important part to play as part of a broad, balanced curriculum to which all pupils are entitled.

We provide pupils with opportunities to learn *from* as well as *about* religions and worldviews, reflecting on what it means to have a faith, or none, and to explore and develop their own spiritual awareness and understanding. Pupils are helped to develop a positive caring attitude towards other people, an understanding of their social and cultural traditions and respect for and appreciation of the diversity and richness of other religious beliefs, cultures and worldviews. Our Religion and Worldviews curriculum follows the Hull and East Riding Agreed Syllabus (2022)

Aims

At Burlington Infant School we aim, in an age appropriate way,

- to develop the children’s knowledge, understanding of, and ability to respond to religions and worldviews represented in Great Britain, through the disciplines of Theology, Philosophy and Social Sciences
- to help them understand and respect different religions, worldviews, values and traditions and understand the influence of those on individuals, societies, communities and cultures
- to encourage children to reflect on their own experiences and to develop a personal response to the questions of the meaning and purpose of life
- to learn about religious and ethical teaching, enabling them to make reasoned and informed judgements on religious and moral issues
- to develop the children’s sense of identity and belonging, preparing them for adult life as citizens in a plural society
- to develop enquiry and response skills through the use of distinctive language, listening and empathy
- to reflect on, analyse and evaluate their beliefs, values and practices and communicate their responses

Burlington Infant School: Religion and Worldviews Policy

Implementation of Policy

The Religion and Worldviews policy is based on the Hull and East Riding Agreed Syllabus (2022) and, where appropriate, adapted to meet the specific needs of the school. The programme of study (within the agreed syllabus) aims to ensure that all pupils develop religious literacy through knowing about and understanding a range of religions and worldviews through the disciplines of

- Theology
- Philosophy
- Social Sciences

It is planned and delivered through these disciplines.

At Key Stage 1 the children study Christianity and Islam plus one other religion or non-religious worldview.

More time is spent on Christianity than on any other individual religion or worldview 'to reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian' (Education Act 1988)

Teaching and Learning

At Burlington Infant School the teaching of Religion and Worldviews promotes learning across the curriculum in a number of areas such as spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, key literacy skills and thinking skills. Learning is organised to encourage the development of attitudes: self-awareness; respect for all; open-mindedness; appreciation and wonder.

Our teaching enables children to extend their own sense of values, and promote 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 Religion and Worldviews curriculum and we use their own experiences to help develop their religious thinking.

Religion and Worldviews also makes important contributions to other parts of the school curriculum such as PSHCE, Geography, History and Outdoor Learning. Religion and Worldviews offers opportunities for personal reflection and plays a significant, though not exclusive, role in contributing to SMSC development and the promotion of fundamental British values.

Visits and visitors can provide powerful learning experiences for both teachers and children. We visit several different Christian churches in the vicinity of the school and have particularly strong links with Bridlington Priory Church. Clergy and other members of the community and different faith representatives meet and talk with the children. Activities and discussions are focused on specific areas of the curriculum.

We base our teaching and learning style in Religion and Worldviews on the key principle that good teaching allows children both to learn about religious traditions and non-religious worldviews and to reflect on what the ideas and concepts mean to them. Children are given

Burlington Infant School: Religion and Worldviews Policy

the opportunity to work in a variety of ways including whole class, groups, in pairs and as individuals. We recognise that in our school we have children of widely 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. We achieve this in a variety of ways, for example, by:

- Setting common tasks which are open-ended and can have a variety of responses.
- Grouping the children by ability in the room and setting different tasks for each ability group.
- Providing resources of different complexity, adapted to the ability of the child.
- Using classroom assistants to support the work of individuals or groups of children.

Planning

We plan our Religion and Worldviews curriculum based on the Hull and East Riding Agreed Syllabus (2022) and follow the 2022 Units of Learning. We ensure that the topics studied in Religion and Worldviews build upon prior learning. We offer opportunities to 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 progress through school.

We carry out the curriculum planning in three phases: long term, medium term and short term. The long term planning maps the Religion and Worldviews topics studied in each term for each year group. We teach Religion and Worldviews as both discrete and cross curricular themes. Our medium term plans give details of each unit of work for each term. The Religion and Worldviews co-ordinator keeps and reviews these plans on a regular basis in collaboration with other members of staff. The class teacher modifies the short term plans for each lesson.

Pupils receive an average of 45-60 minutes per week of Religion and Worldviews, representing at least 5% of curriculum time; when appropriate some of this time is blocked to provide concentrated focus. Curriculum time given to Religion and Worldviews is distinct from Collective Worship, which is outside curriculum time.

Foundation Stage

We recognise that Religion and Worldviews forms a valuable part of the educational experience of children in Early Years Foundation Stage. The Foundation Stage forms the basis of children's future understanding and therefore begins with children's own experiences and feelings, particularly around 'special' times, people, places, books and things. Many opportunities are given for thinking, talking, listening and responding to others respectfully. Much emphasis is placed on valuing and caring for other people in our local community and also for children to relate their understanding to a wider and global community.

Burlington Infant School: Religion and Worldviews Policy

The Right of Withdrawal

At Burlington Infant School parents have the right to withdraw their child/ren from all or part of the Religion and Worldviews lessons. At our school concerns about the subject should be discussed with the class teacher and/or Headteacher. Parents who wish to withdraw their children must provide written notification to this effect. Teachers can also exercise their right to withdraw from teaching the subject. However, it is hoped that all teachers and parents will feel comfortable with the Religion and Worldviews taught at our school and will address any concerns to the Head Teacher in the first instance. The aim of Religion and Worldviews is not to convert children to a particular viewpoint or imply that all ethical standpoints are necessarily religious ones.

Assessment Recording and Reporting

The Hull and East Riding Agreed Syllabus (2022) sets out a structure for recognising pupil achievements and each pupil can work progressively towards achieving the statements of attainment as outlined following the Agreed Syllabus for Religion and Worldviews. The school policy for assessment, reporting and recording is implemented in accordance with suggested assessment tools in the syllabus, using the statutory End of Key Stage Statements.

Assessment in Religion and Worldviews is seen in its broadest sense and is not limited to measurement and testing. Through activities, for example, discussion with children, group activities, marking and guiding their work, observing, displaying work, asking and answering questions, teachers are continually finding out about their children's achievements.

Equal Opportunities

At Burlington Infant School inherent in our Religion and Worldviews policy is the importance of the contribution made by each child and member of staff towards a happy and caring environment in the school, by showing respect for the appreciation of each person as an individual, regardless of colour, culture, origin, sex or ability.

We aim for all children to have equal opportunities regarding access to the Religion and Worldviews curriculum, in order that they are encouraged to strive for academic excellence and develop their full potential.

Religion and Worldviews for pupils with SEND

At Burlington Infants we have high expectations for every pupil and offer programmes of study that give all pupils relevant and appropriately challenging work, teaching knowledge, skills and understanding in ways that match and challenge pupils' abilities. Where necessary, planning is modified to allow pupils to access the curriculum that is appropriate to their needs. This is done through providing a variety of teaching approaches, using a range of resources including the use of interactive and sensory stimuli, adapting tasks or environments and activities where necessary, and providing additional support from other adults.

Burlington Infant School: Religion and Worldviews Policy

Religion and Worldviews for More Able Learners

More able learners will be identified as part of our formative and summative assessment procedures. We will provide for their needs through a framework of high quality first teaching which focuses on ensuring the children are challenged appropriately. In addition, we will focus on developing their learning behaviours, including, greater reflection, problem solving and enquiry, making connections, higher order thinking skills and independent learning. The progress of more able learners will be rigorously tracked to ensure more able children reach their full potential.

The Role of the Religion and Worldviews Subject Leader

- To show good practice by example.
- To monitor the effectiveness of the planned and delivered curriculum specifically in Religion and Worldviews
- To guide and support teachers in this subject, and to provide, where necessary, appropriate training and development.
- To audit and monitor the quality of Religion and Worldviews resources, including online and other web based technologies, to ensure effective learning and teaching across the school.
- To work closely with the Link Governor.
- Encourage staff to use the RE planning to deliver a lively and exciting subject using creativity, thinking skills and cross-curricular experiences.

Resources

We have sufficient resources in our school to be able to teach all our Religion and Worldviews teaching units. Artefacts and resources for Religion and Worldviews are kept in a central area. The school has a good supply of Religion and Worldviews topic books to support children's learning and individual research.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Religion and Worldviews co-ordinator and Head Teacher are responsible for monitoring the standards of children's work and the quality of teaching in Religion and Worldviews. This should be done through liaison with staff to arrange lesson observations, through staff training sessions, monitoring planning and coverage, and carrying out pupil interviews. The result of any monitoring should be discussed with the Headteacher/SLT and any actions resulting from this should be acted upon within a given time frame.

The role of the Head teacher is:

- in collaboration with the subject leader, to monitor the implementation of the Religion and Worldviews policy, teaching and learning

Burlington Infant School: Religion and Worldviews Policy

- to ensure the governing body is informed about the progress and profile of Religion and Worldviews in the school
- deploy support staff to maximise support for Religion and Worldviews

Disability Equality Impact Assessment

This policy has been written with reference to and in consideration of the school's Disability Equality Scheme. Assessment will include consideration of issues identified by the involvement of disabled children, staff and parents and any information the school holds on disabled children, staff and parents.

Review and Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Religion and Worldviews co-ordinator.