

Attenborough School R.E. Policy

Syllabus

R.E. is taught following the Service Children's Education **Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2016-2021** as provided by Service Children's Education SACRE.

Purpose

- Attenborough School believes that R.E. should be inspiring, challenging and fun.
- We want every child to develop their level of religious understanding and literacy.
- We want every child to be able to articulate, with confidence, their ideas about religion, beliefs and spirituality, and to be able to change their minds if they choose to do so.
- We want every child to deepen their understanding of different faiths and beliefs and what it means to belong to a faith community.
- We seek to promote social and ethnic harmony, tolerance, respect, cohesion and integration through a deeper understanding of beliefs and practices.

Service children encounter wide diversity in many contexts and the R.E. syllabus promotes understanding between all people. Children are given opportunities to explore their own beliefs, values and traditions and those of others. Children are supported to develop a positive attitude and respect towards people from all religions and worldviews.

Children can develop personally through RE, challenging preconceptions, asking for justification of opinions, re-assessing their own stance on issues and recognising the vast, fascinating and challenging nature of religious study.

RE teaching at Attenborough School links closely to promoting British Values, critical and higher-order thinking, Philosophy for Children and co-operative learning.

RE does not seek to convert or urge a particular religion or belief on pupils.

RE teaching and learning helps children to become literate and articulate about religions and beliefs, and to be thoughtful members of a plural society. In learning from religion children will be able to make informed choices about how they want to live their lives whilst understanding more about the faith of other people they meet.

Statutory Basis

Every child in MOD schools has a statutory entitlement to religious education. This entitlement is for all pupils regardless of their faith or belief.

Religious Education is, by law, locally determined and the syllabus was agreed by Service Children's Education Agreed Syllabus Conference.

It is a requirement on schools and governing bodies to ensure that all learners gain their statutory entitlement to RE throughout all years of compulsory education and in the sixth form. This has been part of the statute since 1944, it was reinforced in the 1988 Education Act and it remains so today.

The right of withdrawal was first granted when RE was actually religious *instruction* and carried with it connotations of induction into the Christian faith. RE is very different now – open, broad, exploring a range of religious and non-religious worldviews. Parents still have the right to withdraw their children from RE on the grounds that they wish to provide their own religious education. However, it is good practice to talk with the school to ensure the aims and value of RE are understood before honouring this right.

Collective Worship

Collective worship is not part of the taught curriculum and is not considered as part of the recommended time for teaching RE.

Attenborough School invites a Padre to conduct a whole school assembly once per week, during which various spiritual and religious ideas are considered. Links are often made between these school assemblies and the purposes and themes of RE.

In addition, each year children from Attenborough School are given an opportunity to take part in a Christian-based Anglo-German carol service at a local church in Paderborn.

Principal Aim of RE

RE at Attenborough School explores big questions about life, to find out what different people believe and what difference this makes to how they live. RE gives children time to make sense of religion, to consider and reflect on their and other people's ideas and ways of living.

Coverage and Teaching

In FS2, children will encounter Christianity and other faiths, as part of their growing sense of self, their own community and their place within it.

In KS1 and KS2, children learn more about the traditions of Christians, Muslims, Hindus and Jewish people.

It is within KS3 that children will learn in more depth about Sikhs and Buddhists; however these traditions will be encountered throughout children's RE at Attenborough School.

In addition, children consider secular and non-religious worldviews, as well as focussing on other worldviews of the local community.

RE teaching at Attenborough School enables children to achieve three main objectives:

A. Know about and understand a range of religions and worldviews.

B. Express ideas and insights about the nature, significance and impact of religions and worldviews.

C. Gain and deploy the skills needed to engage seriously with religions and worldviews.

Teaching of RE is split across three main strands: *Believing, Expressing* and *Living*.

Each year group considers a “Key Question” from one of the above strands, for example, “Which stories are special and why?” (FS2), “What does it mean to belong to a faith community?” (KS1), “What do different people believe about God?” (KS2). Each Key Question forms a unit of RE teaching which lasts for a series of lessons.

Assessment

Each Key Question unit of learning enables children to achieve Emerging, Expected or Exceeding learning outcomes. These learning outcomes are linked directly to the Attenborough School Learning Ladders assessment system.

Children are assessed formatively through teacher questioning, verbal and written responses, next step questions and peer and self-assessment. Summative assessments are recorded through Learning Ladders and end of year reports.

Children record their learning in IPC topic books, through collaborative responses to questions, artwork and Design and Technology projects.

RE displays in school celebrate children’s learning, questioning and reasoning skills.

