



**Exploring together
Succeeding together**

RE Policy

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Intent

At Hill Avenue Academy our aim is to educate all children to the highest levels of academic and personal achievement developing confident, happy and compassionate members of society through our bespoke, high quality Religious Education curriculum which is built upon, Exploring together; Succeeding together, in conjunction with our school values: Happiness, Respect, Teamwork, Achieve.

The curriculum is supported and underpinned by our Learning Behaviours: Resilience, Curiosity, Collaboration, Reflection and Metacognition. They are embedded within our RE curriculum delivery to enable and empower the children to become independent learners who are self-motivated and want to continuously learn and grow, now and in the future.

At Hill Avenue, our Religious Education (RE) curriculum is built on the Wolverhampton SACRE guidelines and meets the standards of the National Curriculum, providing a strong foundation for our pupils. We've carefully designed our RE curriculum to be inclusive, meaningful, and inspiring. Through a thoughtful and engaging progression, we offer children opportunities to dive into diverse beliefs and worldviews, helping them explore life's big questions about purpose, values, and beliefs in a way that feels relevant to them in today's world.

Our approach is designed to help children think critically, show empathy, and understand others. Across the RE curriculum, children engage in inquiry, discussion, reflection, and evaluation, building a solid understanding of different beliefs and moral questions. At Hill Avenue, we see RE as a chance for children to learn about themselves and others, to feel safe exploring different perspectives, and to develop respect and curiosity about the rich variety of beliefs and traditions that make up our world. We want them to think about what they believe, reflect on their own values and develop a strong sense of empathy and community.

We aim to, wherever possible link RE with other subjects, like History, Art, English, and PSHE, to give children a wider understanding of how beliefs have shaped cultures and societies. We provide them with chances to consider religion and ethics in both the past and the present and to reflect on their own place in the world. By exploring religious and cultural perspectives pupils at Hill Avenue build the confidence to ask thoughtful questions, gain understanding, and respect diversity.

Our goal is to nurture thoughtful, reflective, and curious young people. We encourage children at Hill Avenue to think deeply, to understand the significance of beliefs and to explore how religious and ethical perspectives shape personal and community identities. By fostering this reflective mindset, we help them grow as compassionate listeners and engaged members of society. Our hope is that when children leave Hill Avenue, they carry with them a deeper appreciation and respect for the incredible diversity of the world around them, along with a clearer understanding of their own values and choices.

In Religious Education (RE) at Hill Avenue, our goal is to:

- Nurture respect, empathy and understanding for people from all backgrounds and beliefs, helping children engage thoughtfully in our diverse, interconnected world.
- Build a strong foundation of knowledge and skills that allows children to explore a range of religious and non-religious perspectives, supporting them as they develop their own views on ethical and moral questions.

- Encourage self-reflection, helping children consider and clarify their own beliefs and values while learning to respect those of others.
- Develop skills for thoughtful discussion and respectful debate, giving children the confidence to share and evaluate their ideas and listen openly to others.

Through our RE curriculum, children will have the chance to:

- Investigate and learn about key beliefs, practices, and traditions from various religions and worldviews, understanding their impact on individuals, communities and society.
- Express their ideas through discussion, reflection, art, storytelling, and role play, which deepens their understanding and builds effective communication skills.
- Ask thoughtful questions, evaluate different viewpoints, and respond with understanding and respect, cultivating an open-minded approach to different beliefs and values.
- Use diverse resources, texts, and media to engage with sacred stories, symbols and celebrations, enriching their awareness of the world's cultural and religious diversity.
- Reflect on what they're learning, think about their own views and consider others' perspectives, promoting a respectful and balanced approach to differences in belief.
- Learn about significant historical figures, events, and cultural expressions that have shaped religious and ethical traditions, appreciating their relevance in today's world.
- Develop critical thinking skills by examining ethical and moral questions, encouraging them to explore concepts like kindness, justice, equality, and community.
- Consider ideas of responsibility, empathy, and care for others, both locally and globally, helping them see their role in creating a compassionate and respectful society.
- Reflect on teachings related to well-being, relationships, and personal growth, learning to apply these principles in their everyday lives.

At Hill Avenue, we promote British Values through our Religious Education (RE) curriculum by encouraging children to explore different beliefs, work together and respect each other's ideas and perspectives. For example, when discussing religious or ethical topics, children are invited to listen to and appreciate their peers' viewpoints, creating a respectful environment where they work together to understand a variety of perspectives. Children also learn the value of respect, tolerance, and shared principles as they explore various religious beliefs and practices. For instance, when learning about sacred spaces or rituals, they are taught to show respect for these traditions and to understand the importance of following certain practices as a way of honouring them. At Hill Avenue, we encourage children to explore their own beliefs and ideas while appreciating those of others, supporting them in expressing themselves openly and confidently. For example, when discussing ethical or moral questions, children are encouraged to share their personal insights and respect the differing viewpoints of others in their class. Our RE curriculum also gives children a chance to learn about the rich diversity of cultures and traditions that shape our world. For example, when learning about religious festivals or cultural celebrations, children gain insight into the beliefs and values that make these events meaningful, helping them appreciate the unique contributions of each tradition to our shared society. Through this, children come to understand the importance of cultural heritage and its role in shaping both individual and community identity.

Implementation

At Hill Avenue we teach RE as a discreet subject with an aim of preserving its unique nature. We believe this allows children to gain a strong and clear understanding and to make purposeful connections to other subject areas.

We place an emphasis on both substantive and disciplinary knowledge within our RE Curriculum so that the children can 'know more and remember more' alongside understanding what it is that religious thinkers actually do, helping to preserve the integrity of Religious Education as a discipline.

Learning is underpinned through the following disciplinary concepts

Beliefs and Teaching	Practices and Rituals	Expression and Worship	Sacred Texts and Stories	Ethics and Morality
Community and Belonging	Diversity and Tolerance	Reflection	Personal Growth	

The children develop and build on their substantive knowledge through the weaving, revisiting and progression of the second order concepts of.....

Belief Systems	Sacredness	Belonging	Interpretation	Tradition and Change
Expression and Symbolism	Ethics and Values	Diversity	Personal Meaning and Reflection	Influence and Impact

Our Religious Education (RE) curriculum is thoughtfully designed with weekly one-hour lessons to keep pupils engaged and support strong, consistent learning outcomes. This approach helps meet the needs of our pupils by reinforcing their understanding, building critical thinking and reflective skills, and keeping lessons clear and engaging. By revisiting and building on what they've learned, children can deepen their understanding over time.

Each unit of work has clearly outlined key concepts, knowledge and skills, carefully planned to ensure children make steady progress within each unit, throughout the year and as they move up through each key stage. This structure keeps RE learning coherent and builds on previous knowledge, allowing children to explore beliefs, values and cultural understanding in a meaningful, age-appropriate way as they grow.

At Hill Avenue, Religious Education (RE) combines thoughtful reflection with active engagement. We encourage children to think deeply about beliefs, values and the many worldviews that shape our lives, moving beyond just learning facts. They're invited to question, reflect, make connections, share ideas, listen to others and evaluate different perspectives. Our approach gives children opportunities to explore religions and worldviews in a way that builds knowledge and develops a respectful, well-rounded outlook.

The skills children gain in RE enhance their learning across the curriculum. Understanding cultural traditions and values enriches their studies in History and Geography, while exploring ethical questions strengthens critical thinking in PSHE.

When we look around, it's clear that beliefs, values and traditions touch every aspect of society. Our RE curriculum connects students' learning to various cultural traditions and community settings, inspiring ways to engage with their local area and explore different cultures. These connections add valuable meaning to their learning and prepare them to contribute thoughtfully and positively to the diverse world around them.

Early Years Foundation Stage

In Early Years at Hill Avenue, we introduce Religious Education (RE) through the framework of understanding the world, following the Early Learning Goals (ELG) curriculum. Our youngest children begin by exploring ideas of family, community and diversity, which form the foundation of RE learning. Through conversations, stories, and interactive activities, children are encouraged to talk about their own families, beliefs and traditions. This allows them to connect with their own life experiences and begin thinking about the values that are important to them and their loved ones. They also engage with stories, images, and simple artifacts from a variety of cultural and religious backgrounds, helping them see similarities and differences between people's lives, beliefs, and customs. By learning about different ways of life, both within their own community and beyond, children develop an early awareness and appreciation of diversity. This approach encourages respect, curiosity, and an open mindset, helping them understand that people have unique traditions and perspectives that shape their lives.

Key Stage 1

In Key Stage 1 at Hill Avenue, children begin exploring key beliefs, traditions and figures from various religions, building a strong foundation in Religious Education (RE). They study themes such as caring for others through Christian stories, belonging within the Sikh and Muslim communities, and the importance of places of worship, such as churches, gurdwaras, and mosques. By connecting these lessons to their own community, children develop a sense of belonging, respect, and pride in the diverse beliefs that shape their surroundings. They also learn about significant religious figures, rituals and symbols, discovering what makes them meaningful and relevant today. This early RE experience fosters an appreciation for diversity and an understanding of how religious teachings continue to influence lives and communities around them.

Key Stage 2

In Key Stage 2 at Hill Avenue, children deepen their understanding of different religions, exploring beliefs, practices and diverse worldviews from local, British, and global perspectives. Our RE curriculum encourages them to ask questions, make connections and follow their own lines of inquiry, building curiosity and critical thinking skills. Community remains a core theme as children learn about religious practices within their locality and nearby areas, fostering respect, pride and appreciation for the diversity around them. They also study the contributions of significant figures from various religious backgrounds, learning about the challenges they faced, their achievements and the lasting impact of their contributions. By exploring beliefs, sacred texts, and traditions from Christianity, Sikhism, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, and Buddhism, children gain a well-rounded view of

the world's religions, developing respect, empathy and a strong sense of belonging within a diverse society.

At Hill Avenue we believe that all children are entitled to a broad, rich, balanced and relevant curriculum through which we support children with additional needs. We encourage all of our children to achieve their full potential and to be fully involved in both first hand experiences. We ensure all educational visits and speakers are fully accessible to all children in our school.

When planning for teaching and learning we take into account the wide range of abilities of our children. Teachers set high expectations for all pupils. They will use appropriate assessment to set ambitious targets and plan challenging work for all groups, including:

- More able pupils
- Pupils with low prior attainment
- Pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds
- Pupils with SEN
- Pupils with English as an additional language (EAL)

Teachers ensure that pupils with SEN and/or disabilities can study RE and ensure that there are no barriers to every pupil achieving. Teachers plan differentiated learning opportunities to meet individual needs and put in place reasonable adjustments and scaffolds whilst ensuring access to a full and varied RE curriculum along with their peers.

Our planning ensures there are opportunities for children of all abilities to develop their knowledge and skills in each unit and planned progression has been built so that the children are increasingly challenged as they progress within a unit and across key stages.

Assessment

Assessment steps are used by class teachers to determine children's understanding, subject knowledge and religious thinking skill set in relation to their age related Expectations.

High quality planning progressively builds on knowledge, skills and understanding across year groups, and key stages. Learning is assessed by teachers in lessons through observations, questioning and in the moment marking and personalised feedback ensuring misconceptions are addressed promptly and effectively.

Where learning happens without a written outcome, ie visitors in school, religious visits, discussions or debates evidence of this can be captured digitally and uploaded to a class file which is a personal secured online space. (In line with the school's policy)

Class teachers will make end of unit summary judgments about the learning of each child in relation to the National Curriculum and SACRE expectations.

Impact

Our RE curriculum is designed to excite and to develop well-rounded citizens who are passionate when exploring the world around them, children who want to share their expertise and have a true interest and real love of learning within this subject. We believe our rich RE curriculum will lead to quality outcomes, great learning and rapid rates of progress.

The RE subject leader will regularly monitor and review the teaching and learning of RE as well as reviews and feedback from SLT and Pupil voice. The learning journey of RE and outcomes will be monitored, identifying strengths and ways to grow to improve through feedback.

Our schemes of work reflect the content and challenge of the curriculum. Our aim is to offer a broad, balanced, rich and vibrant curriculum that provides challenging pathways to achievement for all learners and leads to excellent RE provision.

Our bespoke curriculum will be exciting and will inspire children to nurture a passion for RE. The quality of education will be evaluated to ensure that it enables children to achieve the highest standards with high quality learning outcomes and supports children in being confident, resilient, self-motivated independent learners with the skills to be a lifelong learner.

This policy also needs to be in line with other school policies and therefore should be read in conjunction with the following:

Teaching and Learning Policy

Marking and Feedback Policy

Curriculum Policy

Assessment Policy

SEND Policy

Equal Opportunities Policy

Health and Safety Policy

Manor Trust Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Policy

Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by staff and Trust Directors/CEO.