Religious Education Curriculum Statement

Our Vision for Religious Education

At Laira Green Primary School, we celebrate diversity and value the richness of different faiths, beliefs and worldviews. Our Religious Education curriculum prepares children to thrive in a multicultural world, developing secure knowledge, empathy and respect for people of any faith or worldview. We promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development so that they can make sense of religious and non-religious beliefs, understand the impact of these beliefs on people's lives and make meaningful connections between them.

We follow the Plymouth Agreed Syllabus (2019–24), which provides a coherent and progressive framework enabling pupils to develop a deep understanding of religions and worldviews represented in the UK. Christianity is studied in every key stage, alongside Islam, Judaism and Hinduism. Non-religious worldviews, including Humanism, are also explored, recognising the diversity of beliefs held within our school community.

Our curriculum provokes thoughtful questions about meaning, purpose, identity, morality and what it means to be human. Children learn to explore different answers to these questions, weigh up wisdom from a range of sources and express their own insights respectfully. They develop systematic knowledge of religions and beliefs, enabling them to form their own ideas, values and identities while appreciating the right of others to differ.

We want children to use Religious Education to understand the world around them. They learn to interpret texts and sources of authority, evaluate evidence, articulate their beliefs clearly and engage positively in dialogue. Through this, they develop the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to handle questions raised by religion and belief and reflect on their own ways of living.

Curriculum Organisation and Progression

Religious Education is taught weekly at Laira Green Primary School. The curriculum is organised as a spiral, enabling pupils to revisit and deepen their understanding of key concepts as they progress through the school. Each unit builds on prior learning, supporting children to make connections between beliefs, practices and worldviews.

Across Key Stages 1 pupils study Christianity, Judaism, Islam. This is further developed and extended in KS2, with the addition of Hinduism and other non-religious world views such as Humanism. The curriculum is carefully sequenced so that pupils develop secure knowledge of core beliefs, practices and values, enabling them to explore more complex ideas in later units. Retrieval activities and reflective discussions help strengthen long-term understanding and support pupils in applying their knowledge in new contexts.

Early Years Foundation Stage

In Preschool and Reception, children are prepared for future R.E. learning through everyday experiences that promote tolerance, kindness and sensitivity. They learn to ask questions, articulate their ideas and listen respectfully to others' opinions and beliefs.

During *I am Special/Me and My World* (Preschool) and *Marvellous Me* (Reception), children discuss their families, special events and celebrations, recognising that people live and celebrate differently. They explore what makes them unique and appreciate the uniqueness of others. In *African Adventure* (Reception), children learn about life in Kenya, comparing traditions, values and ways of living with their own experiences.

Through carefully chosen stories, DEAR sessions and SMSC assemblies, children are introduced to underlying themes from different religions, including Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Sikhism

and Buddhism. These early experiences lay the foundations for understanding diversity, belief and identity.

Teaching and Learning in Religious Education

Our R.E. lessons combine explicit teaching with discussion, storytelling, exploration of artefacts, drama, music and reflective activities. Teachers introduce new concepts through clear explanations, high-quality texts, visual resources and real-life examples that help children connect religious ideas to their own experiences.

Children work independently and collaboratively, developing communication, reasoning and empathy. They learn to listen to different viewpoints, compare beliefs and practices and explain their thinking. Visits to local places of worship and visitors from faith communities (through PCFCD) enrich learning, enabling pupils to encounter lived religion and deepen their understanding of how beliefs influence people's actions and choices.

Disciplinary Knowledge and Worldview Understanding

Religious Education is rooted in enquiry. Children learn to investigate questions, interpret texts and sources, evaluate beliefs and communicate their ideas clearly. The threefold aim of the syllabus underpins all learning:

- Making sense of beliefs: Understanding religious and non-religious beliefs, concepts and teachings.
- Understanding the impact: Exploring how beliefs influence individuals, communities and ways of life.
- Making connections: Linking beliefs, practices and ideas; reflecting on personal experience and forming reasoned responses.

As children progress, they develop skills in:

- Interpreting religious texts and sources of authority
- Comparing beliefs and practices across religions and worldviews
- Evaluating evidence and arguments
- Understanding diversity within religions
- Articulating personal beliefs respectfully
- Engaging in dialogue and debate
- Reflecting on moral and philosophical questions

R.E. Beyond the Classroom

We enrich Religious Education through visits to local places of worship, visitors from faith communities and participation in spiritual art and poetry competitions. Children learn about and commemorate significant events such as Remembrance Day, Holocaust Memorial Day, Diwali and Ramadan. These experiences help pupils understand how beliefs shape traditions, values and community life.

At Laira Green Primary School, our pupils will:

- Understand and respect different religions and non-religious worldviews.
- Value diversity and appreciate different cultures and beliefs.

- Ask thoughtful questions about meaning, purpose and identity.
- Make connections between beliefs, practices and ways of living.
- Explain how stories and teachings show what people believe.
- Recognise how beliefs influence actions, choices and behaviour.
- Debate and challenge ideas respectfully, using evidence and reasoning.
- Reflect on their own beliefs, values and experiences.
- Leave primary school with the knowledge, empathy and confidence needed to engage positively in a diverse society.