

Willow Primary School

Religious Education (RE) Policy



Date: September 2025

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1. Introduction

Willow Primary School, as part of the **Exceed Learning Partnership**, is committed to providing a broad and balanced curriculum that promotes the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all pupils. Religious Education (RE) plays a key role in this vision by fostering understanding, respect and tolerance for diverse beliefs and worldviews.

2. Statutory Requirements

As an academy, we have the freedom to follow any approach, however, we follow the **2025 Doncaster Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education** because it meets the legal requirements as outlined in the Education Act 1996 and provides clear guidance for delivering a high-quality RE curriculum that is locally agreed and nationally informed.

3. Aims of Religious Education

The purpose of RE at Willow Primary School is to support pupils in becoming **reflective, respectful and informed learners**. Our RE curriculum enables pupils to:

- **Know and understand a range of religions and worldviews**, developing a secure and meaningful understanding of key beliefs, practices, and values.
- Express ideas and opinions about belief and meaning in thoughtful and respectful ways.
- Develop critical thinking skills and the ability to reflect on their own beliefs, values and experiences.
- Recognise the importance of gaining a good understanding of different faiths and worldviews in order to build empathy, challenge prejudice and promote shared values.
- Become tolerant and respectful individuals who appreciate diversity within their local community and the wider world.
- Engage positively with religious and non-religious perspectives, learning to live respectfully and responsibly in a multicultural and multi-faith society.

4. Curriculum Delivery

- RE is taught **weekly as a discrete subject** across all year groups.
- We follow the **2025 Doncaster Agreed Syllabus**, which ensures balanced coverage of Christianity and other principal religions such as Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism, Judaism and non-religious worldviews.
- Lessons include learning about beliefs, practices, celebrations, special places, and moral teachings.
- The curriculum is enhanced through the use of **faith visitors, visits to places of worship**, storytelling, artefacts and high-quality visual resources.
- Teaching is inclusive and sensitive, promoting discussion and encouraging respect for all.

5. Inclusion and Accessibility

RE is provided to all pupils, regardless of background or ability. Lessons are adapted to meet the needs of all learners, including pupils with SEND, and we ensure that all children can access and engage meaningfully with the content.

6. Right to Withdraw

In line with statutory guidance, parents and carers have the **right to withdraw** their child from all or part of RE. Any requests should be made in writing to the Principal and a meeting will be offered to discuss alternative arrangements.

We always take parents views into account but strongly advocate children participating in RE regardless of their own faith so that all our children have a strong understanding of a range of ideas and faiths within society.

7. Assessment and Monitoring

- Teachers assess learning through observations, discussions, and recorded work, using guidance from the Doncaster Agreed Syllabus.
- The **RE Lead** monitors planning, teaching and learning across the school, and supports staff with training and resources.

8. Resources and Enrichment

We use a range of engaging resources to support learning in RE, including:

- Artefacts, books, and videos from a variety of faith traditions.
- Guidance materials from the **2025 Doncaster Agreed Syllabus**.
- Links with local faith communities, guest speakers, and trips to places of worship.

9. Review and Policy Oversight

This policy will be reviewed every three years or sooner if there are significant changes in local or national guidance.

Oversight of RE sits with the **academy's leadership team**, the **RE Lead**, and is supported by the **Exceed Learning Partnership Trust Board** where appropriate.

Signed:

Executive Principal: _____

Chair of Governors: _____

Date: _____

Appendix A: Overview of RE Coverage by Year Group

In line with the 2025 Doncaster Agreed Syllabus

Year Group	Key Themes	Religions/Worldviews Covered
EYFS	Celebrations, special people, belonging, stories	Christianity, introduction to other beliefs (e.g. festivals from Hinduism, Islam)
Year 1	Belonging, places of worship, religious stories	Christianity, Judaism
Year 2	Leaders and teachers, special books, symbols	Christianity, Islam
Year 3	Community, worship, sacred texts	Christianity, Hinduism
Year 4	Pilgrimage, festivals, teachings	Christianity, Sikhism
Year 5	Beliefs and actions, moral choices, life journeys	Christianity, Islam, Humanism
Year 6	Belief in action, identity, comparing worldviews	Christianity, Non-religious worldviews (e.g. Humanism)

Note: This is a summary for guidance only. Each unit is planned in more detail using the full **2025 Doncaster Agreed Syllabus**, which ensures progression in knowledge and skills across the school.

Appendix B: Religious Education Long-Term Plan

In line with the 2025 Doncaster Agreed Syllabus

Willow Primary School follows a structured and progressive RE curriculum from EYFS to Year 6, ensuring coverage of a broad range of religions, worldviews, and key themes as outlined in the 2025 Doncaster Agreed Syllabus.

Our RE Long-Term Plan details:

- The religions and worldviews studied in each year group
- The key questions or enquiry-based units being explored
- The progression of knowledge and skills across key stages
- The alignment with national and local expectations for Religious Education

Appendix C: Withdrawal from Religious Education – Parent Request Form

Willow Primary School

Request for Withdrawal from Religious Education (RE)

Under the Education Act 1996, parents have the legal right to withdraw their child from all or part of Religious Education. We respectfully encourage families to meet with the Principal to discuss their request and the arrangements that will be put in place.

Child's Full Name: _____

Class: _____

Parent/Carer Name: _____

Contact Number: _____

I wish to withdraw my child from:

(Please tick one)

☐ All RE lessons

☐ Specific topics (please list below):

Reason for withdrawal:

Signed (Parent/Carer): _____ **Date:** _____

Principal Discussion Notes (to be completed by school):

Principal Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

This document is reviewed every three years or sooner by the RE subject leader and senior leadership team to ensure it continues to meet the needs of our pupils and reflects the aims of the Exceed Learning Partnership.