



# **Religious Education Policy**

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**Newbury Academy Trust**

September 2017

## Religious Education Policy

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Academy", "Academy Trust" all refer to Newbury Academy Trust, Love Lane, Newbury, Berkshire, RG14 2DU. School refers to one of the three schools within the Newbury Academy Trust, Trinity School, Love Lane, Newbury, Berkshire, RG14 2DU; Fir Tree School, Fir Tree Lane, Newbury, Berkshire, RG14 2RA; Speenhamland School, Pelican Lane, Newbury, Berkshire, RG14 1NU.
- 1.2 The term Governor refers to both Full Governing Body Trustees and Local Governing Body Governors.

### 2. Aims

- 2.1 We believe that Religious Education enables pupils to reflect and ask challenging questions about life, the issues of right and wrong and humanity. It can help promote a sense of self-worth and an identity within a multi-cultural, multi-faith school and the wider community. Furthermore, RE develops pupil's knowledge of the major world religions, their teachings, practices and influences on individuals and communities. We enable pupils to develop a sound knowledge not only of Christianity but also of other world religions, especially those that are the main faiths of pupils within our school. Pupils begin to understand what it means to be committed to a religious tradition while appreciating cultural differences in the UK today.
- 2.2 Through our teaching of RE pupils develop an awareness of spiritual and moral issues and become able to reflect on their own experiences, while developing a personal response to the fundamental questions of life.

### 3. Inclusion

- 3.1 Our RE curriculum meets the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act (ERA). The ERA stipulates 'Religious Education should be taught to all pupils in full time education except for those withdrawn at the request of their parents.' Our curriculum is based on the LA's Agreed Syllabus, and reflects the fact that religious traditions in Great Britain are, in the main, Christian, while taking account of the teachings and practices of other major religions.

### 4. Purpose

- 4.1 Teaching and learning RE allows pupils to learn from and about different religions. We encourage pupils to think about their own views and values in relation to the themes and topics studied in the curriculum
- 4.2 RE should help pupils to learn **ABOUT** religion by:
- acquiring and developing knowledge and understanding of Christianity and the principle religions represented in the UK.

- developing an understanding of the influence of beliefs, values and traditions on individuals, communities, societies and cultures.

4.3 RE should help pupils learn **FROM** religion by:

- developing a positive attitude towards other people and respecting their right to hold beliefs different from their own in our multicultural society.
- developing the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues with reference to the teachings of the religions.
- enhancing their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development by:
  - developing awareness of important questions.
  - responding to such questions with reference to the teachings and practices of religions and to their understanding and experience.
  - reflecting on their own beliefs, values and experiences in the light of their study.

## 5. Planning and assessment

5.1 As with all subjects, teachers will plan opportunities for learning which are engaging, inspiring and promote experiences which challenge pupils to reflect and reason about the multicultural society in which they live. Pupils will leave Fir Tree with a thorough knowledge of the six major religions; Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism and Islam addressing key concepts of belonging, believing and behaving. Planning will reflect our creative curriculum and enable pupils to have a wide range of experiences such as role play, artwork, P4C and visits which enhance their knowledge, understanding and respect towards other's values and opinions.

5.2 Teaching time for RE at Fir Tree reflects the legal requirement of:  
36 hours taught RE in a year in KS1 = 1 hour per week  
45 hours taught RE in a year in KS2 = 1 hour 10 minutes per week

<b>Authorised by</b>	Resolution of the Board of Trustees
<b>Date</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> October 2017
<b>Effective Date of the Policy</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> October 2017
<b>Effective Date for Review</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> October 2019

## Appendix 1

### RE coverage across the school 2016-2017

<b>Year 1</b>	We are all special and different	Bonfire night Diwali Christmas		Noahs Ark Animal stories from the bible Chinese New Year story? – wrong time of year but link to animals and the race	Buddhism	Jonah and the whale Pirates code/commandments
<b>Year 2</b>	Bible stories and psalms about birds (Christianity)	Hanukkah (Judaism) Diwali (Hindu)	Places of worship	Buddhism (link with Science – not harming living things, wheel of life?)	Festivals and celebrations around food	
<b>Year 3</b>	Pilgrimages Hajj Loudres Golden Temple River Ganges	Ancient religions – Egyptian gods and rituals Diwali The significance of Christmas	The significance of food for different religions	Religious books Bible Qu'ran Torah Guru Granth Sahib Vedas The significance of Easter	Places of worship for different religions Church Hindu Mandir Synagogue Mosque Gudwara	Religious festivals of South America Day of the dead (Mexico) Semana Santa (Peru-Holy week) Dia de san blas (Paraguay) Fiesta de San Juan bautista (Venezuela) Festival of the snows (Peru)
<b>Year 4</b>	Religious Rules	Celebrations across all religions	Religious views in the United Kingdom		Religious Food	Morals and what I believe
<b>Year 5</b>	Celebrations from big 6 religions.		Druids, Norse mythology	Morals' (10 commandments, 5 pillars, 8 fold path, etc) & 'big questions' (e.g. do we need religion? Do you need proof there is a god?)	Buddhism Shinto	
<b>Year 6</b>	Learn about the different faiths of India and their celebrations.		Christianity		Judaism	

