Religious Education (RE) Self-Evaluation 2026

Intent

At Ormiston Cliff Park Primary Academy, Religious Education is valued as a fundamental part of a broad and balanced curriculum. Whilst RE is neither a core nor foundation subject, it holds equal status to National Curriculum core subjects, as outlined in the Education Reform Act (1988), and is a compulsory element of every pupil's education.

We believe that Religious Education makes a significant contribution to pupils' personal development, academic growth and understanding of the world around them. Through high-quality RE, pupils develop knowledge, respect, empathy and critical thinking skills that prepare them to participate positively in an increasingly diverse society.

Our well-sequenced and fully resourced RE curriculum is aligned with the Locally Agreed Syllabus and national non-statutory guidance. It provides pupils with meaningful opportunities to explore faith, belief, identity, values and community through a carefully planned programme of enquiry-based learning.

Through Religious Education, we aim to:

- Develop curiosity and critical thinking through an enquiry-based approach that begins with pupils' own experiences before exploring religious and non-religious worldviews.
- Provide a coherent and progressive curriculum that builds knowledge and understanding over time.
- Encourage pupils to reflect upon significant questions about life, meaning, purpose, morality, belonging and identity.
- Develop secure knowledge and understanding of Christianity alongside other major world religions and belief systems.
- Foster respect, tolerance and appreciation for different faiths, cultures and perspectives.
- Enable pupils to explore and articulate their own beliefs, values and opinions confidently and respectfully.
- Promote personal reflection, spiritual development and emotional wellbeing.
- Encourage pupils to consider their responsibilities towards themselves, others and the wider community.
- Develop empathy, compassion, generosity and understanding.
- Inspire a sense of awe, wonder and curiosity about the world and human experience.
- Ensure pupils understand the relevance of religion and belief in contemporary society.

Implementation

Religious Education is delivered through a structured curriculum that balances learning *about* religion with learning *from* religion.

Learning about religion enables pupils to:

- Investigate key beliefs, teachings, traditions and practices within different religions and worldviews.
- Explore how faith and belief influence individuals, communities and societies.
- Develop skills of enquiry, interpretation, analysis and evaluation.
- Use appropriate subject-specific vocabulary to communicate their understanding effectively.
- Examine ultimate questions, ethical issues and concepts of meaning and purpose.

Learning from religion enables pupils to:

- Reflect on their own experiences, beliefs and values.
- Make connections between religious teachings and contemporary life.
- Consider questions relating to identity, belonging, truth and morality.
- Develop the ability to express reasoned viewpoints whilst respecting differing perspectives.

In Key Stage 1, pupils are introduced to a range of religions through the exploration of celebrations, stories, symbols, beliefs and practices. As pupils move into Key Stage 2, they deepen their understanding through the study of a broader range of religions and worldviews, exploring their origins, teachings, traditions and significance in modern society.

Across the school, RE is enriched through:

- Collective worship and assemblies.
- Storytelling and discussion.
- Cross-curricular links.
- Exploration of religious festivals and significant events.
- Opportunities for reflection and personal response.

Literacy is embedded throughout the curriculum. Pupils develop their speaking and listening skills through discussion and debate, engage with a range of texts, participate in drama activities and communicate their understanding through varied writing opportunities.

The curriculum supports the development of wider skills, including:

- Critical thinking
- Research and investigation
- Reflection and evaluation
- Empathy and understanding
- Communication and reasoning

Impact

The impact of our Religious Education curriculum is evident in the knowledge, understanding and attitudes demonstrated by our pupils.

Pupils leave Ormiston Cliff Park Primary Academy with:

- A secure understanding of a range of religions, beliefs and worldviews.
- An appreciation of diversity and the ability to engage respectfully with differing perspectives.
- The confidence to discuss and articulate their own beliefs, values and experiences thoughtfully and respectfully.
- Strong enquiry and critical thinking skills, enabling them to interpret, analyse and evaluate religious and non-religious viewpoints.
- A greater understanding of identity, belonging, morality and citizenship.
- The ability to apply learning from RE to real-life situations and contemporary issues.

Through RE, pupils develop the knowledge and cultural awareness needed to participate positively in modern British society. They demonstrate respect, tolerance and empathy towards others, while developing a strong understanding of their own place within the wider world.

Our RE curriculum nurtures inquisitive minds, promotes spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, and supports pupils' wellbeing. As a result, children are well prepared for the next stage of their education and life in a diverse society.

Ultimately, pupils enjoy Religious Education, engage enthusiastically in lessons and develop a lasting appreciation of the role that faith, belief and values play in shaping individuals, communities and society.