



Religion and Worldviews Policy

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Change Log

Date	Changes to Policy
Spring 2023	Local diocese links need to be referred to Truro and Exeter for guidance on rights to withdraw (Cornwall schools will need to follow Truro policy)
Spring 2023	To reflect Trust growth in Cornwall the policy now references Exeter and Truro diocese
Spring 2023	Locally Agreed Syllabus – Diocese of Truro follow the Cornwall Syllabus (Page 5)
Summer 2024	<p>Title of policy amended to Religion and Worldviews policy and changed throughout the policy to reflect this.</p> <p>Added to p3 – added ‘think critically’</p> <p>Added to p4 Section 5 ‘ have an understanding of diversity within Worldviews’</p> <p>Added to p5 Section 7 statement of entitlement from National Society (Church of England)</p> <p>Added to p5 Section 9 ‘Where situations relating to this arise, the school will work in partnership with their diocese’</p> <p>Added to p6 Trust RE Lead replaced by Headteacher</p> <p>Added to p6 Section 11 – addition of Optimal Learning Approach</p> <p>Added to p6 Section 13 – addition of ‘which is inclusive’</p> <p>Added to p6 Section 14 - In any situations where advice is needed, the school will work in partnership with the diocese.</p> <p>Added to p7 Section 17 – addition of ‘The teaching of Religion and Worldviews is underpinned by our trust vision, education for ‘Life in all its fullness’ (John 10:10)’ and ‘non religious’ views</p>

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1. Introduction

Within the Learning Academy Partnership schools, we teach according to the RE Today Agreed Syllabus as provided and agreed by Devon, Torbay, Plymouth and Cornwall SACREs.

In addition to this, the locally agreed syllabus for Cornwall may also include additional units which currently make up the Curriculum Kernewek.

Within our schools, we recognise the variety of religious and non-religious backgrounds and worldviews from which our pupils come. We welcome this diversity, and we intend to be sensitive to the home background of each child and their family through the teaching of the agreed syllabus. We are glad to have the active support of religious and non-religious members of our local community to support our teaching of Religion and Worldviews and we draw on this expertise where appropriate.

As a Trust, we place importance on the inter-relationship between pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, and the leading role which the Religion and Worldviews curriculum plays in some of these areas.

2. The importance of Religion and Worldviews in the curriculum

Religion and Worldviews must be provided for all registered pupils in line with the funding agreement of each academy within the multi academy trust. Therefore, academies that were previously aided schools will provide Religion and Worldviews in line with their funding agreement and schools that were controlled or community schools their funding agreement. Therefore, within the Learning Academy Partnership (hereinafter the Trust), the requirements for Religion and Worldviews in all schools is specified in their individual funding agreements. The Trust provides Religion and Worldviews in accordance with the requirements and advice of the Diocese of Exeter/Truro and the Agreed Local Syllabus as appropriate.

3. Purpose and Aims of Religion and Worldviews

There is not a National Curriculum for Religion and Worldviews. However, the National Curriculum requires schools to teach a broad and balanced curriculum, which includes the compulsory teaching of Religion and World Views. Religion and World Views within the Learning Academy Partnership will be provided in line with the legal requirements for schools and academies.

These requirements outline that:

- The basic curriculum will include provision for Religion and Worldviews for all pupils on the school roll;
- The content of Religion and Worldviews shall reflect the fact that religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, while taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religious traditions represented in Great Britain (section 375 (3) of the Education Act 1996 and paragraph (5) of Schedule 19 to the School Standards and Framework Act 1998);
- The Religion and Worldviews Education which is provided shall be in accordance with the trust funding agreement.

Within the framework of the law and the Agreed Syllabus, we aim that Religion and Worldviews will enable pupils to:

- Provide an ambitious, challenging, enriching and inclusive curriculum;
- Develop an understanding of religious diversity and diversity of non-religious worldviews;
- Acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other principal religions represented in the United Kingdom, including worldviews approaches to teaching and learning.
- Develop an understanding of the influence of religious and non-religious worldviews, values and traditions on individuals, communities, societies and cultures, locally, nationally and globally;
- Learn about and develop a knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews, both in local and national contexts, describing, explaining and analysing beliefs and practices;
- Develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues, with reference to the teachings and diversity within the religious and non-religious worldviews represented in the United Kingdom, enabling pupils to hold informed conversations about religion and worldviews by learning how to agree and disagree respectfully, think critically and develop a sense of respect for other people and challenge prejudice;
- Develop positive attitudes of respect towards other people who hold views and beliefs different from their own, and towards living in a society of diverse religions and worldviews;
- Develop pupils' dialogical skills to enable them to engage positively in pluralistic societies;
- Understand and interpret sources of text, authority, sources of wisdom and other evidence and evaluate the value of these;
- Provoke challenging questions about the meaning and purpose of life, beliefs, ultimate reality and issues of right and wrong, responding to such questions with reference to the teachings and practices of religions and worldviews relating them to their own understanding and experience;
- reflecting on their own beliefs, values and experiences in the light of their study;

- Enhance their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development by developing awareness of the fundamental questions of life raised by human experiences, and of how religious teachings and other beliefs can relate to them;
- Enable pupils to develop a sense of identity;
- Develop a sense of awe and wonder within the world, learning how to articulate personal beliefs, values and experiences and to foster a sense of personal spiritual development and reflection;
- Explore what it means to be human;

4. The Contribution of Religion and Worldviews to the Wider Curriculum

Within the 2002 Education Act, Section 78 states that the curriculum for pupils provided should be a *'balanced and broadly based curriculum which -*

(a)promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society, and (b)prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.'

Religion and Worldviews supports the wider curriculum by:

- Supporting the social, moral and cultural development of pupils, exploring the role that religion plays in the lives of people within diverse societies
- Making links between the values of the school and how values are put into practice in the lives of people
- Promoting respect for all and challenging prejudice and discriminations
- Exploring and celebrating diversity within cultures, communities, values and beliefs
- Community cohesion; exploring diversity within the local area and developing skills of respect
- How religion and worldviews in the UK and the world impact on life
- Supporting of British Values

5. Religion and Worldviews Curriculum

All pupils are entitled to receive a broad and balanced curriculum and Religion and Worldviews plays an important part in this. We aim for all children to experience high quality Religion and Worldviews by planning in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus and guidance from the Diocese of Exeter/Truro, as appropriate to each academy. Credible Religion and Worldviews publications may also be used to support the teaching of Religion and Worldviews. Approaches and resources used will ensure children understand diversity within worldviews.

Within Religion and Worldviews, pupils should be provided with a range of learning opportunities that may include:

- Visiting local places of worship and receiving visitors from faith communities
- Using art, music, dance, drama and multimedia techniques
- Children experiencing times of quiet reflection to develop their own thoughts and ideas
- Using story, pictures, art, photographs and a range of sources/texts to interpret meaning and explore ideas to deepen understanding
- Using artefacts to help children develop their understanding of religious beliefs and forms of expression
- Discussing religious and philosophical questions giving reasons for their own beliefs and those of others
- Developing the use of ICT (particularly DVDs and the internet) in helping children's awareness of religions and beliefs
- Developing their skills of communication, including debate, to be able to respond in an informed and respectful way

6. Approaches to Teaching and Learning and the Organisation of Religion and Worldviews

Religion and Worldviews explores Christianity, especially the beliefs, practices and significance of the Church of England where appropriate, and other principal religions and worldviews represented in Great Britain. It is taught through a range of key themes as outlined in the relevant locally agreed syllabus and Diocesan guidance. Religion and Worldviews is delivered as a discrete subject that is taught on a weekly basis. It may also, where appropriate and relevant, form part of the work of the wider curriculum. It may also be delivered through interfaith days.

In accordance with the structure of the locally agreed syllabus, pupils will study the following:

- *Within EYFS, pupils study Christianity and a range of stories belonging to different religious traditions*
- *At Key Stage 1 pupils study Christianity alongside other world religions*
- *At Key Stage 2 pupils study Christianity alongside other world religions and non-religious worldviews*

7. Time allocation

Religion and Worldviews curriculum time does not include assembly or collective worship, even when the assembly provides a starting point for curricular work. Christmas and Easter production rehearsals and performances are not RE.

Within Church of England schools, this also stands alongside the National Society's Statement of Entitlement. This states the following:

“Curriculum balance and time: sufficient, appropriate and balanced Reflecting the school's trust deed or academy funding agreement parents and pupils are entitled to expect that in Church schools Christianity should be the majority religion studied in each year group and should be at least 50% of curriculum time. Sufficient dedicated curriculum time, meeting explicitly RE objectives, however organised, should be committed to the delivery of RE. This should aim to be close to 10% but must be no less than 5% in key stages 1-4.”

Religious Education in Church of England Schools: A Statement of Entitlement (2019)

Within community schools, Religion and Worldviews will be taught in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus recommendations.

The teaching of Religion and Worldviews in EYFS is planned within the EYFS Framework, in accordance with the locally Agreed Syllabus.

8. Locally Agreed Syllabus

A detailed scheme of work is available for teachers and other interested people (upon request) alongside this policy. It has been written in the light of the RE Today Agreed Syllabus as provided by Devon, Plymouth and Torbay SACREs and the Cornwall Syllabus for Diocese of Truro Schools.

9. Right to specifically Anglican Religion and Worldviews

Parents who have children in academies that were previously controlled schools have a right to specifically denominational Religion and Worldviews. Where situations relating to this arise, the school will work in partnership with their diocese.

10. Assessment and Expectation in Religion and Worldviews

Religion and Worldviews will be assessed in line with the feedback policy of the Trust. Assessment will be used for two purposes:

1. To promote pupils progress in Religion and Worldviews over time
2. To ensure that pupils are meeting the expected standard as set out in the Locally Agreed Syllabus and, where applicable, the expectations of the SIAMS framework.

Occasionally teachers' feedback and assessment will be used to inform the improvement of practice across the Multi Academy Trust.

By the end of Key Stage 1 children will be expected to achieve the expected standard as set in the locally agreed syllabus.

By the end of Key Stage 2 children will be expected to achieve the expected standard as set in the locally agreed syllabus.

The Headteacher, in collaboration with each Academy's Religion and Worldviews Lead, is responsible for the monitoring of the quality of teaching and learning within Religion and Worldviews.

11. Matching Work to Pupils' Needs

Our Trust policy regarding pupils with special needs and differentiation applies also to Religion and Worldviews and teachers will follow the Optimal Learning Approach.

12. Recording

Work in Religion and Worldviews can be recorded in different ways, which capture the learning.

We also recognise that some of the most important learning in Religion and Worldviews (e.g. how RE contributes to spiritual development) cannot be formally assessed in the same way. What we do assess is children's progress against the level descriptors in the local agreed syllabus.

13. Visits and visitors

As part of the curriculum, each academy ensures that appropriate visits are made available for the children in order for them to have first-hand experiences and gain a greater understanding of Religion and Worldviews.

Before inviting speakers into school, teachers will complete the proforma in the Trips and Visits Guidance which is then authorised by the Head of Academy who is responsible for ensuring that the Prevent guidance and Safeguarding policy is adhered to.

Visitors to the academy are welcomed and enabled to share their experiences and knowledge.

All visitors to the school and visits to places of worship are in line with the academy safeguarding and health and safety policies. We ensure that all visitors are in line with the Prevent and British Values curriculum and that they have engaged in an informed dialogue regarding the purpose of the visit with a member of staff pre-visit.

14. Rights of withdrawal

Religion and Worldviews must be included in the curriculum for all registered pupils, including pupils in Reception.

We firmly believe that Religion and Worldviews is an important subject in children's learning, **which is inclusive**. We fully recognise the legal right of parents to withdraw their children from all or any part of Religion and Worldviews. We do encourage parents to contact the Head if they have any concerns about Religion and Worldviews provision and practice at the academy, recognising that parents have no obligation to justify their decision to withdraw their child from Religion and Worldviews.

In any instance where Religion and Worldviews is integrated into the wider school curriculum, the academy will discuss the arrangements with the parents to explore how the pupil's withdrawal can be best accommodated to meet the legal requirements of the right of withdrawal.

If pupils are withdrawn from Religion and Worldviews, the academy does not have a duty to provide additional teaching or to incur extra cost. Pupils will be supervised during the time of withdrawal.

In addition to this, where a pupil has been withdrawn, the law provides for alternative arrangements to be made for Religion and Worldviews of the kind the parent wants the pupil to receive, and it is the duty of the parent to provide this alternative provision at no cost to the individual academy or the Trust.

This is in line with the guidance from Exeter and Truro Diocese

http://exeter.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Exeter_Diocese_RE_CW-Withdrawal_Policy.pdf

We note the Human Right of parents to withdraw their children from Religion and Worldviews and of teachers to withdraw from teaching the subject. We aim to provide an open curriculum which can be taught to all pupils, by all staff. Teachers are asked to refer to the head teacher any questions from parents about withdrawals. Requests for full or partial withdrawal from RE should be made in writing to the head teacher and a record kept of them.

In any situations where advice is needed, the school will work in partnership with the diocese.

15. Responsibilities for Religion and Worldviews

As well as fulfilling their legal obligations, the Head of Academy will ensure:

- All pupils make progress in Religion and Worldviews
- The curriculum meets legal requirements
- That Religion and Worldviews is effectively led and managed and that standards remain high
- Achievement in Religion and Worldviews and the quality of the provision are regularly evaluated
- Those teaching Religion and Worldviews are suitably qualified and trained in the subject and have regular and effective opportunities for CPD
- Teachers, both newly appointed and existing teachers, are provided with the correct support to enable them to become effective teachers of Religion and Worldviews
- That teachers are aware of Religion and Worldviews' contribution in developing pupils' understanding of worldviews and its impact as part of the duty to promote community cohesion
- Clear information is provided for parents on the Religion and Worldviews curriculum and the right to withdraw
- That teachers are aware that they do not have to teach Religion and Worldviews unless specifically appointed to do so as stipulated in their contracts
- Religion and Worldviews is resourced, staffed and timetabled so that the school can fulfil its legal obligations on Religion and Worldviews so that pupils can make good progress

16. Equal Opportunities

Within the Trust, we are committed to ensuring equal opportunities for all children. We will continue to monitor the impact of this policy to ensure that it meets the needs of all children.

17. Conclusion

The Trust is a Church of England Multi Academy Trust and it holds dearly the Anglican ethos of openness, inclusivity and the common good of the whole community.

It is our aim to support the Church of England Vision for Education, in both Church of England and Community schools, so that we educate for knowledge and wisdom, hope and aspiration, community and living well together and dignity and respect. The teaching of Religion and Worldviews is underpinned by our trust vision, education for 'Life in all its fullness' (John 10:10).

Religion and Worldviews makes an important contribution to these aims and to the spiritual development of children. We aim to provide the knowledge, skills and opportunities for all children to explore their own beliefs and values and the beliefs and values of others. We aim that this will enable children to develop a sense of respect for the religious, non-religious and cultural differences of others so that they may be able to contribute positively within a pluralistic society and hold respectful, informed discussions with people whose views may be different to their own.