



Peak Tor Federation



Religious Education Policy

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Current Subject Leader: Chloe Lindley

Date of Review	Signature of Chair of Governors	Minute Number
25.10.23	A Thornhill	133/23/5

'Life in all its fullness.' John 10:10

School Vision Statement

At Peak Tor Federation we aim to provide all our children with an excellent caring and supportive Christian environment. Our Christian values, which develop the children's spiritual and moral understanding, underpin all areas of school life as we support our children to become valued, caring and responsible members of society. The strong Christian ethos in our school is reflected in our Religious Education curriculum. Following a key-stage appropriate programme of study, children follow the Understanding Christianity programme alongside the Derbyshire Agreed Syllabus. Big Questions also play an important part in allowing children to explore their thoughts and ideas.

As they explore the subject, children are supported to develop their understanding of Christianity, other religions and world views. Children are taught how to make sense of beliefs, make connections based on their learning and understand their impact of beliefs on themselves, their community and the wider world. We are passionate about equipping our children with the skills they need to be effective global citizens

Policy for Religious Education

At Peak Tor Federation, our Religious Education is based on the Derbyshire and Derby City Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education, 202-2025. This is the statutory basis for R.E in Derbyshire. Along with this, we use Understanding Christianity.

Legal Responsibilities

Since 1944, all schools have been required to teach R.E to all pupils on roll, with the exception that parents have the right to withdraw their child from the subject. It is usual, therefore, for children to receive R.E as part of their curriculum entitlement.

Should a parent wish to withdraw their child from R.E lessons, this should be notified in writing to the Head Teacher. In such cases, alternative provision will be made for any child.

The Purpose of Religious Education

"The principal aim of R.E is to engage pupils' systematic enquiry into significant human questions which religion and world views address, so that they can develop the understanding and skills needed to appreciate and appraise varied responses to these questions, as well as develop responses of their own." – *Derbyshire Agreed Syllabus*

In accordance with the Derbyshire Agreed Syllabus p7, we seek to fulfil these aims;

- Have their statutory entitlement to RE met, irrespective of their faith or belief, and within this to encourage pupils to explore questions of spirituality, identity, ethics, discrimination and prejudice.
- To enable pupils to develop religious literacy and conceptual understanding of what it means to be a person of faith or no faith.
- To encourage pupils to articulate their own ideas and experience of religion, belief and spirituality.
- To encourage all pupils and teachers to experience RE as an exciting subject that feeds into an understanding of what it means to live in Derbyshire and Derby City

and our wider world communities and to promote harmony and good community relations.

- To encourage teachers to produce RE lessons that are challenging, inspiring and engaging to everyone.
- To assist pupils to engage critically with ideas and understanding of religion and belief systems, given the nature of our society, its speed of change and growing social media influences. RE studies how religions and worldviews shape and are shaped by the societies in which pupils live, promoting deepening understanding of those belief systems.
- To promote interactive, creative and experiential learning that promotes social and ethnic accord alongside the endorsement of fundamental British Values, so that schools will be supported in visiting places of worship, community meeting places and communicating with different social groups across the local community.

Programme of Study

The Derbyshire Agreed Syllabus has a programme for EYFS, Key Stage 1, Lower Key Stage 2 and Upper Key Stage 2.

In accordance with the Agreed Syllabus, we exercise flexibility regarding the order and length of time of specific units.

It is our intention that as a child completes KS1 and KS2 she/he will have covered all topics.

At the end of each unit, staff assess the children's' understanding using a range of evidence: work in books, discussions in class, through questioning and through performance/presentation. This leads to a judgement of Developing, Expected, and Exceeding. This follows the school approach to assessing without levels.

This information, along with end of key stage outcomes from the Derbyshire Agreed Syllabus, are used to inform an end of Key Stage assessment.

Inclusion

Scaffolding within R.E will enable all children to learn effectively, and will cater for any disability. It will provide a range of learning opportunities other than written work. (Drama, use of artefacts, discussion, art etc.) to facilitate sustaining pupils' interest through active engagements. We also recognise that pupils may be 'exceeding' in R.E, as such, we challenge them to include high levels of understanding and insight within their work.

Roles and Responsibilities

The role and responsibilities of the Governing Body and Head Teacher are to:

- Provide an overall strategic vision and set the aims of the school and priorities for development in R.E provision;
- Ensure that R.E provision meets the statutory requirement and reflects the distinctive nature of a church school;
- Provide opportunities for the Subject Coordinator and staff to gain the knowledge and insight they need in order to provide high quality teaching and learning in R.E
- Liaise with the R.E Subject Coordinator regarding the provision of R.E at the school.

The role and responsibilities of the R.E Subject Coordinator are to:

- Provide strategic leadership and direction for the whole school vision in R.E and set high expectations for achievement by staff and children;
- Monitor and evaluate the provision of R.E at Peak Tor Federation;
- Attend local, regional and national training courses, network meetings and professional development opportunities in order to maintain an up to date knowledge of local and national initiatives and ensure that changes in practices are implemented;
- Work collaboratively with staff to support the implementation of the R.E programme of study;
- Liaise with Collective Worship Coordinator to exploit links between R.E and Collective Worship;
- Actively promote effective R.E through sharing good practice and ensure the high profile of R.E within the school;
- Liaise with outside speakers, agencies, organisations and establish strong links with the local Parish Church;
- Use evidence from monitoring and assessment activities to prepare verbal reports on the schools' provision of R.E to be used by the Head Teacher and staff in the formulation of action points in the school improvement plan.

The role and responsibilities of the class teacher are to:

- Ensure a secure knowledge and understanding of the R.E policy at Peak Tor Federation;
- Create a caring classroom atmosphere that demonstrates and advocates the Christian values and attitudes that underpin the foundation and ethos of the school;
- Demonstrate Christian behaviour, attitudes and values towards others through teaching and in relationships within and beyond the school community;
- Implement the R.E Programmes of Study from the DAS for R.E and Understanding Christianity;
- Allocate the required curriculum time for the explicit teaching of R.E;
- Access and record children's achievements;
- Display the class grace and end of the day prayer prominently and affirm daily;
- Identify and discuss own personal and professional development needs with R.E Subject Coordinator