

RE Curriculum Statement 2021 /2022

1. Curriculum intent

The RE Curriculum at Gearies Primary School informs our values and beliefs and are reflected in what we say and how we behave. RE at Gearies is an important subject in itself, developing an individual's knowledge and understanding of the religions and beliefs, which form part of contemporary society.

Religious Education at Gearies Primary School is taught by following the joint Redbridge and Havering Agreed Syllabus, which has been put together by the local SACRE (Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education). The SACRE is made up of local people representing each of the main religions as well as non-religious backgrounds.

The National curriculum states that 'every maintained school in England must provide a basic curriculum (RE, sex education and the National Curriculum). This includes provision for RE for all registered pupils at the school (including those in the sixth form), except for those withdrawn by their parents (or withdrawing themselves if they are aged 18 or over) in accordance with Schedule 19 to the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. The key document in determining the teaching of RE is the locally agreed syllabus within the LA concerned. Schools designated as having a religious character are free to make their own decisions in preparing their syllabuses. LAs must, however, ensure that the agreed syllabus for their area is consistent with Section 375(3) of the Education Act 1996, which requires the syllabus to reflect that the religious traditions of Great Britain are in the main Christian whilst taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain.'

RE offers distinctive opportunities to promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development. RE lessons, offer a structured and safe space during curriculum time for reflection. Teaching in RE engages pupils in discussion, dialogue and debate which enables them to make their reasoning clear and which supports their cognitive and linguistic development.

RE makes a key contribution supporting schools to promote 'British values' and to prepare pupils for life in modern Britain. Teaching in RE lessons also allows for timely and sensitive responses to be made to unforeseen events of a religious, moral or philosophical nature, whether local, national or global.

Legislation requires that RE is part of the school curriculum for all registered pupils. It must be included in the curriculum for Reception to Y6 but is not compulsory for Nursery.

RE must reflect the fact that the religious traditions of Britain are, in the main, Christian. We must take account of the other principal religions of Britain. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from RE for all or part of the lesson, although this is strongly discouraged and would need to be discussed with the Head Teacher. Pupils progress in RE should be reported to parents in line with other subjects.

2. An ambitious vision

Our vision of RE at Gearies Primary School is that, we recognise that effective, high quality religious education in the UK is central to our pupils living a prosperous, inclusive and inspiring life as respectful adult citizens in a culturally diverse society and wider world. It is essential that young people are confident in their core knowledge of worldviews which not only shape our shared history and culture, but which guide their development.

3. Curriculum enhancement

To support RE learning in school and extend children's curiosity of many religions, many trips are planned to the various places of worship. These include the local Mosque, Gurdwara, Synagogues, Temples and Churches. An advisor from the local Methodist's church also comes in and sessions are planned whereby, she speaks about the Christian faith to all year groups. All religious festivals are respected and celebrated throughout the school, including

Eid ul Adha, Harvest, Christmas, Diwali, Chinese New Year, Holi, Vasaiki, Pesach, Easter, St Georges Day, Ramadhan and Eid ul Fitr.

4. The Curriculum implementation

EYFS: 36 hours of RE a year. This will be made up of a series of blocked units and activities/lessons of 50 minutes a week.

KS1: 36 hours of tuition in RE a year. This will be made up of a series of blocked units or an hour a week.

KS2: 45 hours of tuition in RE a year: This will be made up of a series of blocked units or an hour a week.

The following table is organised below to show which units are covered, in which specific year groups.

Year	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Reception	A Which people are special and why?	B What stories are special and why?	C What places are special and why?	D What times are special and why?	E Where do we belong?	F What is special about our world and why?
Year 1	1.4 What can we learn from creation stories?	1.7 Who is a Christian and what do they believe? (First half of unit)	1.6 What festivals do different religions celebrate?	1.7 Who is a Christian and what do they believe? (Second half of unit)	1.5 What ways are a church/ mosque etc. important to believers (Mosque focus)	1.9 How do religions celebrate the birth of a baby?
Year 2	1.3 How do the stories of Jesus inspire Christians today?	1.8 Who is a Muslim and what do they believe? (First half of term)	1.2 Who influences our lives?	1.1 What do Christians do at Easter and why is it important to them?	1.5 What ways are a church/ mosque etc. important to believers (Church focus)	1.8 Who is a Muslim and what do they believe? (Second half of term)
Year 3	2.8 What do religions teach about the natural world and why we should care about it?	2.10 What does it mean to be a Hindu? (First half of unit)	2.1 Why is Jesus important to Christians?	2.10 What does it mean to be a Hindu? (Second half of unit)	2.5 Why do religious people celebrate?	2.3 How do people express their faiths through the arts?
Year 4	2.4 Where, how and why do people worship?	2.9 What does it mean to be Jewish? (First half of unit)	2.2 Who should inspire us?	2.9 What does it mean to be Jewish? (Second half of unit)	2.6 How and why do religious believers show their commitments during the journey of life?	2.7 What matters most to Humanists and Christians?
Year 5	2.11 What do different people believe about God?	2.19 What does it mean to be a Muslim?	2.13 Why is prayer important for religious believers?	2.18 What does it mean to be a Christian?	2.17 Justice and poverty: Can religions help to build a fair world?	2.12 Why are sources of wisdom important to people?
Year 6	2.20 What does it mean to be a Sikh?		2.14 What do religions say to us when life gets hard?	2.15 Why do people make vows and commitments to one another?	2.16 What will make our city/town/ borough a more respectful place?	

5. Impact of curriculum on our children

The impact of the RE curriculum at Gearies is to engage pupils in exploring and responding to challenging questions raised by religion and world views, so that they can develop the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to appreciate and appraise varied responses to these questions, including their own.

6. Our Strengths

Our strengths at Gearies Primary School are that we are proud of the range of children achieving high, across the whole school from Nursery to Year 6. Each year group knows what unit of work they have to cover over each half term and the work is always completed to the highest level. Each week, topic time is devoted to RE, through blocking of subjects or RE being taught once a week. Subject knowledge of staff is very good and links are always made where possible to other curriculum areas. Gearies is also linked to Carol Dawson who is part of the Methodist Religious Education Resources Project. Her services are provided to us and she comes in to support year groups when they are studying Christianity.

7. Programme of study

Nursery – RE is non statutory

Reception - RE is a compulsory part of education and must be taught using the locally agreed syllabus, which is mentioned above in the table.

KS1 and KS2 RE is a compulsory part of education and must be taught using the locally agreed syllabus, which is mentioned above in the table.

8. Assessment arrangements

Assessments are carried out every half term, to ensure children are making the required progress and that all the specific religions have been covered as directed by the Redbridge and Havering agreed syllabus. Teacher judgement is also used and is based on children's books and moderation within year groups so that all classes are consistent in teaching and learning.

9. Aspects we are currently developing

At this moment in time, the agreed syllabus has been updated until 2026. Each year group has their own units of work to complete over the year. No developments need to be made at this moment in time. If there are developments that need to be made, this information will be disseminated to all staff.

10. Impacts of recent professional development on standards

Through subject leader training, I have been able to ensure that all year groups know exactly what units of work need to be taught across the whole year. I have cross referenced this, with all the RE topic maps that I have written and this is secure and in place. The RE display is now up and showcases a wide range of RE at Gearies which I am very proud of. Standards remain high in the teaching of RE in the school and the agreed syllabus demonstrates this. This will continue throughout the whole school.