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## Religious Education Policy

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Lead reviewer:	Stefan Scippo
Approval by:	Governing body

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## Philosophy

At Swallowfield, the teaching of religious education is an important part of our curriculum. We consider that it is not only the teaching that is important, but also the attitude, outlook and behaviour toward religious education of the whole school, including teachers, Learning Support Assistants, helpers and children. We aim to help the children become aware that people celebrate different special occasions; for example, birthdays, anniversaries and different festivals, and also understand that times in life are often marked by special ceremonies, like birth and marriage. We encourage the children to be aware of others, accept people for whom they are regardless of colour or creed, and to show tolerance and sensitivity towards others. We inspire all children to be gentle, kind and supportive of each other. We help them to appreciate and care for their own immediate environment and all the living things.

## Intent

At Swallowfield Lower School, we believe that it is important for all our pupils to learn from and about religion, so that they can understand the world around them. The aim of Religious Education in our school is to help children to acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of the principal religions represented in Great Britain; to appreciate the way that religious beliefs shape life and behavior, develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues and enhance their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Religious Education is taught throughout the school in such a way as to reflect the overall aims and school values and is designed to encourage creativity, imagination, enquiry, debate, discussion and independence.

## Implementation

At Swallowfield Lower School we follow the Central Bedfordshire RE Agreed Syllabus 2018-2023, which supports our teachers to provide an interesting and engaging RE curriculum. This syllabus, and therefore our RE teaching, focuses on depth rather than breadth when learning about religions. Studying the key ideas and belief systems of religions can be challenging and it is therefore important for our pupils to have time to

understand concepts fully, rather than learning about a wide range of religions at a surface level. RE is taught in a block unit within a half term to allow suitable links to be made to specific religious festivals taking place. Through whole class teaching, children will deepen their understanding in a range of religions such as Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism and Sikhism. Children gain a deeper understanding of the religion studied through the use of high-quality resources/artefacts and are involved in practical, hands-on activities whenever possible.

Lessons are enriched throughout the curriculum by handling artefacts, exploring sacred texts, responding to stories, art, music and dance, meeting visitors from local religious communities and making visits to religious places of worship. Children also partake in a number of whole school events including multi-faith days, Harvest Festival and school performances.

### **Impact and Assessment**

Our RE curriculum provides a clear path of progression, taken from the Central Bedfordshire RE Agreed Syllabus. Teachers know that pupils have achieved the expected outcomes stated in the syllabus through discussions about their learning in lessons and the work produced by the pupils. The children at Swallowfield Lower School enjoy learning about religions and why people choose, or choose not to follow a religion. Through their R.E. learning, the children are able to make links between their own lives and those of others in their community and in the wider world, developing an understanding of other people's cultures and ways of life.

### **More Able**

This will be achieved through a variety of means, including:

- Differentiated group tasks.
- Differentiation by outcome.
- Extension tasks as appropriate.

### **SEND:**

We teach RE to all children, whatever their ability, RE forms part of the school curriculum policy to provide a broad and balanced education to all children.

### **Withdrawal from RE Learning**

Parents may request that their child is withdrawn from R.E. Where parents are wishing to exercise this right, the Governing Body would first suggest that the parents first meet with the Headteacher to discuss their concerns.

### **Homework**

Children will have opportunities to explore RE in their topic learning logs. Teachers will ensure these subjects appear on the topic web, for children to complete a task at home with their parents.

**Display**

We have a RE display board where, three children per month are celebrated for their achievements in RE.

**Resources**

There are a wide range of resources available for the use of all staff in the school. We keep these resources in a central store. They are regularly checked for safety and relevance and new resources may be purchased as needed.

**Health and Safety Issues**

These will be addressed by all staff carrying out RE related activities.

Governor: Mrs Nicola Bowley