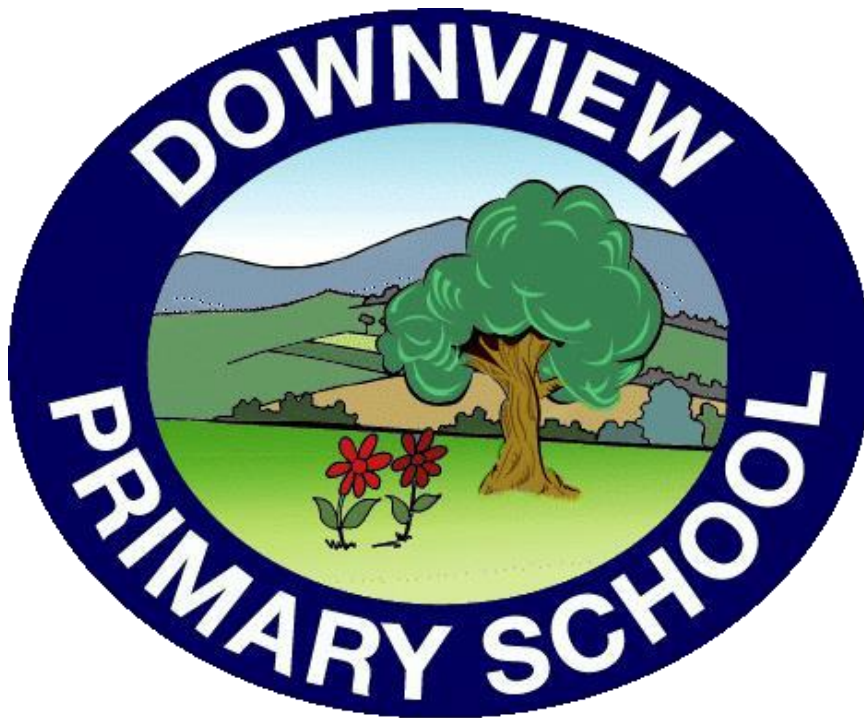


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RE Policy

Downview School: Religious Education Policy

Introduction

At Downview Primary School, Religious Education (RE) supports and strengthens the vision, ethos and values central to our school. RE is compulsory for all Downview pupils as part of the school curriculum. RE contributes to the development of the whole child — spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually — and is taught in a way that encourages respect for different beliefs.

This policy draws on the Kapow condensed RE curriculum and the West Sussex Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education to ensure statutory compliance and high-quality provision.

Aims

RE at Downview aims to support a broad and balanced curriculum and enable pupils of all abilities and stages of development to:

- Develop their knowledge and understanding of Christianity, other religions and worldviews including non-religious views represented in Britain, in line with Kapow and West Sussex guidance.
- Understand how belief impacts culture, relationships, values and lifestyle.
- Explore ways belief is expressed through art, music, ritual and celebration.
- Develop spiritually, morally, socially and culturally by reflecting on personal feelings, responses and relationships.
- Consider the impact of religious values on actions and decisions.
- Develop a sense of awe, wonder and mystery, and explore concepts such as love, forgiveness.
- Acquire and use skills of reflection, empathy, communication, analysis, investigation, interpretation and evaluation.
- Foster attitudes of respect, sensitivity, open-mindedness and self-esteem.

Through RE we also:

- Develop children's critical thinking skills.
- Promote awareness and understanding of cultural, spiritual and moral issues.
- Support pupils to become active, responsible citizens.
- Link with our school's behaviour expectations to be kind, respectful and safe.

Teaching & Learning - Strategies for the teaching of RE

When teaching RE teachers will:

- Ensure provision is based on the Kapow condensed curriculum mapped to the West Sussex Agreed Syllabus, with progression from EYFS to Year 6.
- Have adapted the lessons to suit individual year groups.
- Explain the learning objective.
- Use a range of teaching strategies, including storytelling, enquiry, discussion, drama, art, visits, and use of artefacts and multimedia.
- Use starters and plenaries to ensure children fully understand what they are learning, how they learn and how well they are progressing.
- Ensure that children learn in a variety of ways.
- Celebrate Religious festivals (for example Easter and Diwali) to develop pupils' understanding and to provide first-hand learning where possible.

Role of the RE Co-ordinator is to:

- Support colleagues in planning, teaching and assessing RE using Kapow condensed materials and West Sussex guidance.
- Renew, update and oversee the audit of resources needed to deliver the curriculum.
- Monitor and evaluate the learning and teaching of RE.
- Develop assessment and record keeping ensuring progression and continuity
- Keep abreast of developments in the teaching and learning of RE.

Assessment

At the end of each year teachers will make a summative judgement about the achievement of each pupil. At this point they will decide upon a 'best fit' judgement as to whether the pupil has achieved and embedded the expected learning goals, exceeded expectations or is still working towards the goals. This decision draws upon the professional knowledge and judgement that teachers possess about the progress of each pupil.

Special Educational Needs and Inclusion

RE is taught to all pupils in line with the school's inclusion policy.

Lessons are adapted and scaffolded to meet a wide range of needs. Reasonable adjustments and alternative recording methods are provided where necessary.

Staff will use a variety of approaches to ensure access, including visual resources, simplified texts, small group work and adult support.

Equal Opportunities

All pupils have equal access to RE, regardless of gender, ethnicity or background.

When working in groups, teachers ensure equitable participation and choice of roles.

Teaching materials reflect a diverse range of religious and non-religious perspectives and avoid stereotyping.

Resources

Teachers will have a range of books accessible to all staff.

Kapow online resources and teacher guidance are used to supplement teaching.

People with a religion or worldview, or expertise, in a particular area of RE are invited to work with the children.

Health and Safety

Children are taught to be respectful of other pupils' beliefs and cultures.

Visits to places of worship and external visitors follow the school's risk-assessment and safeguarding procedures.

Any practical activities with artefacts or food are risk-assessed in advance.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The RE leader is responsible for standards in RE and for supporting colleagues.

Monitoring activities include planning scrutiny, lesson observations, work sampling, displays, and pupil surveys.

Right of withdrawal information

Downview recognises that parents retain the statutory right to withdraw their child/children from all or part of the Religious Education (RE) curriculum. Any parent wishing to exercise this right should submit their request in writing to the Headteacher. The school will respect and accommodate such requests in accordance with legal requirements, and will work collaboratively with parents to discuss the intended outcomes of the withdrawal and any alternative arrangements that may be appropriate. While RE is an important part of a broad and balanced curriculum, the school remains committed to upholding parental choice.

Reviewed: September 2026

To be reviewed: September 2028