

Cheshire West and Chester Agreed Syllabus

Religious Education Statutory Time and Content

The purpose of this Agreed Syllabus is to support those who are responsible for the provision and quality of Religious Education in Cheshire West and Chester Schools. Every pupil has a statutory entitlement to Religious Education and should be given the opportunity to explore the beliefs, practices and values that shape the world today. This Agreed Syllabus has been designed to give schools the flexibility to plan and organise religious education taking into account their own circumstances and their own local community.

Schools are free to plan and teach discrete Religious Education weekly, in blocks of time or through links with other curriculum areas. Schools must plan their curriculum based on the requirements and the balance of religions and worldviews as specified below.

It is the Head Teacher's duty to ensure that Religious Education (RE) is provided in accordance with the Agreed Syllabus for all registered pupils. It is a statutory subject for all registered students, including students in the school sixth form. (*See additional document on the Legal Requirements.*) Parents should receive an annual written report on their child's progress in RE. The overview (long term plan) for RE should be made available on the school's website and accessible for all stakeholders.

A Free Choice Enquiry Unit has been built into the curriculum plan within Key Stages 1 and 2 which give schools flexibility to choose their own area of study e.g. Music across a faith. This could also include a local community based project. It is expected that during each key stage children will also explore a non-religious world view e.g. Humanism, Secularism, Atheism.

Time Allocation

Schools must allocate sufficient time and resources to ensure that the expectations of the agreed syllabus can be met. These experiences should be progressive and coherent, developing the core knowledge as specified and the skills required to access religion and worldviews.

KS1 36 hours a year (e.g. 50 Minutes a week)

KS2 45 hours a year (e.g. one hour per week)

KS3 45 hours a year (e.g. one hour per week)

KS4 40 hours a year

KS5 Allocation of time for all should be clearly identifiable.

Foundation Stage

Children should experience enquiry based RE related activities from Christianity and a range of world religions to contribute to the Foundation Stage curriculum requirements. It is expected that by the end of the summer term, Foundation Stage classes will be moving towards the statutory requirement for KS1.

KS1 (Years 1 and 2)

Christianity	Christianity	Christianity
Judaism	Islam	Free Choice Enquiry

Christianity 3 Terms

Judaism 1 Term

Islam 1 Term

Reference to a Non-Religious Worldview (e.g. Humanism)

Free Choice Enquiry Units for the school to decide 1 Term.

KS2 (Years 3 and 4)

Christianity	Christianity	Christianity
Sikhism (or Hinduism)	Islam Judaism	Free Choice Enquiry

Christianity 3 Terms

Sikhism / Hinduism 1 Term

Islam ½ Term

Judaism ½ Term

Reference to Non-Religious World View (e.g. Humanism)

Free Choice Enquiry Units for the school to decide 1 Term

KS2 (Years 5 and 6)

Christianity	Christianity	Christianity
Islam	Hinduism (or Sikhism)	Optional

Christianity 3 Terms

Islam 1 Term

Hinduism / Sikhism 1 Term (whichever was not delivered in years 3/4)

Reference to Non-Religious World View (e.g. Humanism)

Free Choice Enquiry Units for the school to decide 1 Term

Teaching on non-religious world views (including Humanism) must be included in both key stages. A highly recommended scheme of work can be found in additional documents.

Additional Guidance on Free Choice Units

Free Choice Units maybe cross curricular RE led objectives, be determined by your own cohort, further development of a religion or comparative unit on a theme which will help children to understand the concept of religion as a whole.

Additional Guidance on terminology

Throughout all lessons please focus on the key words for each religion covered. For example be able to say the name of the religion, the follower, place of worship, the sacred text, the associated language. (E.g. Islam, Muslim, Mosque, Qur'an, Arabic.) This could then be expanded further in upper Key Stage Two to include country of origin, key leaders or authority. (*See document on Essential Knowledge.*)

Recommendations for Visits and Visitors

At Key Stage 1 and 2 it is recommended that pupils visit at least 3 places of worship from different religions and work with 3 faith visitors from different religions.

At Key Stage 3 and 4 it is recommended that pupils engage with believers and places of worship relevant to the beliefs which they are studying in depth and well as developing a sense of religious community in the world around them.