



Blue Hills Federation



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

SEPTEMBER 2023

The Blue Hills Federation

The Blue Hills Federation is a collective of three primary schools – Clunbury CE Primary School, Newcastle CE Primary School and St Mary's Bucknell CE Primary School. All three schools share one Executive Headteacher and one Governing Body. When using the term 'Blue Hills Federation' within this policy, it is in reference to all three schools. When policy only applies to one school that school will be named specifically. Newcastle CE Primary School does not have a nursery or a preschool, therefore any references to nursery or pre-school do not apply to Newcastle CE Primary School.

Our Vision

Proverbs 22:6 - Good News Bible

'Teach children how they should live, and they will remember it all their lives.'

We are a caring Church Federation bringing together and serving many communities. We provide nurturing environments that facilitates learning for all. We encourage everybody to become confident, sociable and responsible citizens who achieve to the best of their ability in preparation for a fulfilling future.

Our Values

Trust and Truth; Joy and Happiness; Love and Respect; Thankfulness;
Friendship and Family; Perseverance and Resilience

Review Date: September 2026

Context

- The context of RE at the Blue Hills Federation, incorporating, Clunbury CE Primary School, Newcastle CE Primary School and St. Mary's, Bucknell CE Primary School, is that of three small rural schools joined in a thriving federation serving children in the South Shropshire Hills, aged 2 – 11.
- We teach children according to the Shropshire Agreed Syllabus.
- We recognise the variety of religious and non-religious backgrounds from which our children come and we welcome this diversity and intend to be sensitive to the home background of each child. We welcome the support of religious and non-religious members of our local communities to support our teaching of RE.
- We recognise the inter-relationships between pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, and the leading role which the RE curriculum plays in some of these areas.

The Aims of RE within the Blue Hills Federation and the three schools it encompasses.

RE within the Blue Hills Federation will be provided within the legal requirements. These are:

- The basic curriculum will include provision for religious education for all pupils on the school roll;
- The content of the RE curriculum shall reflect the fact that religious traditions in the United Kingdom are, in the main, Christian, while taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religious traditions represented in the United Kingdom;
- The RE which is provided shall be in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus for Shropshire;
- The Shropshire agreed syllabus can be found on the school's website.

The aims in RE at the Blue Hills Federation and the three schools it encompasses are for pupils to:

- Acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and the other principal religions represented in the United Kingdom;
- Develop and understanding of the influence of religious and non-religious worldviews, values and traditions on individuals, communities, societies and cultures, locally, nationally and globally;
- Develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues, with reference to the teachings and diversity within the religious and non-religious worldviews represented in the United Kingdom;
- Enhance their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development by:
 - Developing awareness of the fundamental questions of life raised by human experiences, and of how religious teachings and other beliefs can relate to them;
 - Responding to such questions with reference to the teachings and practices of religions and worldviews relating them to their own understanding and experience;
- Develop positive attitudes of respect towards other people who hold views and beliefs different from their own, and towards living in a society of diverse religions and worldviews.

Time Allocation

The time allocation for teaching of RE at the Blue Hills Federation and across the three schools is: EYFS – planned accordingly within the framework.

Key Stage One - 1 hour a week. This optimum time is dealt with flexibly as children may be taught weekly or in a block style method of teaching, depending on unit or topic that is being taught.

Key stage 2 - 1.25 hours a week. This optimum time is dealt with flexibly as children may be taught weekly or in a block style method of teaching, depending on unit or topic that is being taught.

Scheme of Work

We follow the Shropshire Agreed Syllabus, from which specific units have been chosen to follow. The units chosen ensure that knowledge and skills are developed and built up through a child's learning experiences. We choose the following religions through the Primary School Curriculum:

KS1 – Christianity, Islam and Judaism

LKS2 – Christianity, Islam, Judaism and Hinduism

UKS2 - Christianity, Islam, Judaism and Hinduism

Teaching and Learning Strategies

We aim to ensure that within RE we utilise art, drama, thinking skills, speaking and listening activities, visits, posters, photographs, videos, ICT use, display work and other active learning strategies. Cross curricular work is encouraged, in line with whole school policy for teaching and learning. We recognise the importance of teaching to the Shropshire Agreed Syllabus in a creative, knowledge-rich, broad and balanced way.

We are committed to ensuring that all children are offered engaging learning experiences according to their individual needs. This applies to all subjects across the curriculum including RE. Teachers will be aware of the fact that some children have special and deep experience of a religion according to their family's practice. This may or may not relate to their individual educational ability.

Resources

We have a wide range of resources to support our teaching of RE, which we continue to develop and research to ensure that our children are engaged in their learning. We utilise the Understanding Christianity Resources, online resources from RE today and physical resources purchased from RE today which are linked to the different units within the Shropshire Syllabus, Resources are stored in the staff room and on the school server and, in the case of physical resources, should be returned after use. We have a range of RE books and stories that can be utilised to support the teaching of RE and we are a member of the Shropshire Library Service which allows us to be able to access library artefact boxes to support our teaching of the RE curriculum.

Visits and Visitors

We aim to offer, throughout the RE curriculum, opportunities for the children to visit a range of places of worship, both locally and further afield. This will allow the children to meet faith leaders and other members of the communities who will further enhance the teaching of RE. We also aim to have visitors come to the school, from across a variety of religions, to offer our children a better and wider understanding of their individual beliefs.

Assessment

We report progress and attainment in RE to parents, as required in law. We carry out assessments at the end of each unit of work to monitor each child's progress in the subject during the year. We use this information to inform judgements to report in both parent's evenings and in the end of year report.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

We intend that this policy should operate for the next three years and then be fully reviewed by staff and governors. To ensure that this RE policy is in practice, the Senior Leadership Team, gives staff the opportunity to plan and review the curriculum during each academic year, allowing close monitoring of the delivery of the curriculum. The RE lead and working group, meet regularly and monitoring of work RE occurs throughout the year.

Self-Evaluation

The SLT and Subject Lead for RE will assess and review the subject's strengths and areas for development throughout the year in liaison with the Executive Head Teacher. Part of the role of the RE Lead will be to complete the SEF for the SIAMS inspection for each of the three schools.

Staff Training and CPD

All staff are encouraged to undertake training in this subject area both within the federation and externally. Staff are encouraged to approach the RE lead to access training and the RE lead should actively seek training for the staff. The RE lead should access networks outside of the federation to actively seek to continue to improve the delivery of RE across the federation.