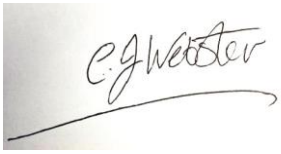
Religious Education Policy

This policy was agreed in November 2026 and will be reviewed in November 2028

Chair of Governors  Date Nov 2026

Headteacher  Date Nov 2026

INTRODUCTION

This policy is based upon the agreed Derbyshire Agree Syllabus (2025-2030) and is underpinned by other polices including; *PSHE, Equal Opportunities* and *Curriculum.* Religious Education is unique in the school curriculum in that it is neither a core subject nor a foundation subject, but the 1988 Education Act states that 'Religious Education has equal standing in relation to core subjects of the National Curriculum in that it is compulsory for all registered pupils' (with the exception that parents have the right to withdraw their children from the subject).

THE SPIRITUAL MORAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN

The 1988 Education Reform Act requires schools to 'promote the spiritual, moral and cultural development of pupils at the school and in society' (paragraph 1:2) through the provision of a broad and balanced curriculum. Although schools are not specifically required to promote the social development of pupils, it is very much a feature of the life and work of pupils.

At The Peak Federation, Religious Education plays an important role, along with all other curriculum areas in promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our children.

INTENT

In Religious Education lessons at The Peak Federation, the intention is for children to:

- develop a knowledge and understanding of Christianity and its impact on our local community, and on our society today
- acquire and develop a knowledge and understanding of the other principal religions represented in the UK today
- develop an understanding of the influence of beliefs, values and traditions on individuals, communities, societies and cultures, locally, nationally and globally
- enhance their spiritual, cultural, moral and social development by developing an awareness of the fundamental questions of life, responding to these and reflecting on their own beliefs
- develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgments about religious and moral issues with reference to the teachings of the principal religions represented in the UK
- develop positive attitudes of respect towards other people who hold views and beliefs which are different from their own, and towards living in a society of diverse religions and beliefs

IMPLEMENTATION

There is an expectation in the Derbyshire Agreed Syllabus (2025-2030) that religious education will be in two parts:

1. Learning about religion and beliefs – Exploring (investigation, discussion, research, stories, etc.)
2. Learning from religion and beliefs – Responding (question, debate, discuss)

The minimum coverage expected in each age –range is:

EYFS – Religious experiences in general.
KS1 – 2 Religions (Christianity + 1 other)
KS2 – 3 Religions (Christianity + 2 other)

Following a discussion with all the Federation staff, the following religions have been selected for study:

Christianity (50% of curriculum)
Islam
Hinduism
Judaism
Buddhism
Sikhism
Humanism

Curriculum time allocation for RE

The time allocated to Religious Education follows the recommendations in the Agreed Syllabus document, that each Unit of Curriculum requires an allocation of not less than 5% curriculum time. This is delivered as follows:

KS1: 36 hours of tuition per year
KS2: 45 hours of tuition per year.

As a result of the way in which the curriculum is organised at each Key Stage and in each year group, the amount of time allocated to Religious Education in any week may differ. Religious Education may be provided in a 'whole block' or the time may be divided up into smaller sessions. RE is also taught in a cross-curricular manner, particularly through subjects such as literacy, art and history.

Over the entire year, class teachers endeavour to ensure that all children have equal access to the required amount of Religious Education curriculum time.

The school will use the Derby & Derbyshire Agreed Syllabus (2025-2030) to form the basis of our curriculum, supported and supplemented by high quality resources from other publications. These resources will be reviewed as part of an ongoing, two-year rolling curriculum that allows us to produce a broad and balanced curriculum to meet the needs of our children within the context of our school setting. The curriculum for RE is included in our school curriculum maps.

IMPACT

Skills in R.E.
Include: investigating, application, reflection, expressing, empathising, interpreting, discerning, analysing, synthesising and evaluating.

Attitudes in R.E.

Include: curiosity, commitment, fairness, respect, self-understanding, open-mindedness, critical mindedness and enquiry.

At The Peak Federation, the teaching of Religious Education according to the Agreed Syllabus is approached with the following principles in mind:

There are no presumptions made as to the religious backgrounds and beliefs and values of the children and the staff. We value the religious background of all members of the school community and hope that this will encourage individuals to share their own experiences with others freely. All religions and their communities, including those with no religious affiliation, are treated with respect and sensitivity and we value the links, which are and can be made between home, school and a faith community.

We acknowledge that each religion studied can contribute to the education of all our pupils. We promote teaching in Religious Education that stresses open enquiry and first-hand experiences wherever possible. In order to make religious education a lively, active subject we employ a variety of teaching methods including art, music, discussion, the development of thinking skills, drama, the use of artefacts, pictures, stories, and the use of periods of stillness and reflection. Educational visits in relation to the teaching of RE are also undertaken where appropriate to enrich the learning experiences for the children.

LINKS WITH OTHER SUBJECTS

Religious Education has links with other areas of the curriculum including English, History and Art. It is also linked to the way in which the school organises its Collective Worship. Collective Worship is provided according to Derbyshire guidelines and while it is seen as being distinct from Religious Education, there are certain links, which can be identified.
Religious Education also provides opportunities for teaching the following cross-curricular dimensions:

- *Equal Opportunities*
- *Personal, Social and Economic Education*
- *Race Awareness*
- *Protected Characteristics education*

WITHDRAWAL FROM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

In England, parents have a legal right under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 to withdraw their child from all or part of Religious Education (RE), without giving a reason, and schools must honour this request.

Schools will work with parents in these circumstances to make alternative arrangements. See Appendix.

RIGHT TO WITHDRAW FROM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

In England, parents have a legal right under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 to withdraw their child from all or part of Religious Education (RE), without giving a reason, and schools must honour this request.

Overview of the Legal Right

- **Applies to all state-funded schools in England**, including academies and voluntary schools.
- **Parents** (or pupils aged 18+) may withdraw from:
  - The entire RE curriculum
  - Specific lessons or topics
  - Visits to places of worship
- **No justification is required**, and schools cannot influence the decision.

What Schools Must Do

- Respect the withdrawal request and clarify whether it applies to all or part of RE.
- Provide **supervision** during withdrawn periods, though they are **not required to provide alternative teaching**.
- Allow alternative RE elsewhere if parents arrange it, provided it does not disrupt attendance except at session boundaries.

Limits of the Right

- Withdrawal **does not apply** to:
  - Spontaneous discussions about religion in other subjects
  - Curriculum areas where religion arises incidentally (e.g., history, citizenship)
- Pupils **cannot withdraw themselves** until age 18 (though they may opt out of collective worship from age 16).

Special Notes

The right to withdraw remains a statutory parental entitlement in England, though guidance encourages dialogue so parents understand the modern, non-confessional nature of RE.