

## RE in the Diocese of Lincoln

The Lincoln Diocesan Board of Education understands the driving purpose of RE in its schools to be the development of secure religious and theological literacy so that our pupils are able to hold balanced and informed conversations about religion and belief. **RE's distinctive contribution to the Christian character of Church of England schools is to provide secure *theological* literacy about Christianity through a multi-disciplinary process of enquiry. This sits within the broader context of religious literacy.** The outcome would be to ensure that pupils are able to hold a theologically informed conversation about Christianity as a living and varied faith. This “enables RE to function well in its own right as a rigorous academic subject” (*Making a Difference* (2014), 21, 5.5), rather than confusing RE's distinctive contribution to the Christian character of the school with collective worship or the Christian values at the heart of the school's ethos. For more information, please see Chipperton et al., [\*Rethinking RE: A Conversation about Religious and Theological Literacy\*](#) (2016).

RE is expected to have a very high profile within the church school curriculum. At the heart of the RE curriculum should be the opportunity for pupils to understand the ‘big story’ of Christianity, including the key concepts on which it rests and the diversity of Christian practice around the world. Pupils should be able to understand Christianity as a living faith that influences people around the world, as well as being the faith that has shaped British society, culture and history.

As inclusive communities, we also expect the RE curriculum to enable pupils to develop an informed and respectful understanding of other religions and worldviews, including an appreciation of the lived reality and diversity of expression within and between their beliefs and practices.

Whether a school is voluntary aided (VA) or voluntary controlled (VC) – that is, whether it follows the Locally Agreed Syllabus for RE or not, - we acknowledge that effective teaching and learning in RE requires a well-designed curriculum that meets the needs of all learners. Pupils should be able to gain knowledge of a variety of religions and worldviews in a way that allows for progression of understanding throughout their time at school. They should

also be given opportunities to reflect critically and responsibly on their own spiritual, philosophical, ethical and, where relevant, religious convictions.

We encourage schools to deliver RE in a way that instils respect for different views and in which genuine dialogue and enquiry takes place. We recognise that it is important for children and young people to be able to ask questions in a safe space about both the positive and negative elements of religions and worldviews in order to be able to gain an understanding that reflects the lived reality of religion and belief, rather than an idealised, stereotypical or generalised version. We acknowledge that schools must do this whilst being mindful of both the British Values and the PREVENT duties.

In line with the locally agreed syllabuses used within the Diocese of Lincoln and the guidance of the National Society, we expect a minimum of 5% of curriculum time to be committed to the delivery of RE. This may be delivered as a discrete lesson a week or arranged in blocks of focused study, depending on the requirements of the individual school or academy. The curriculum time provision for RE should not be confused with the legal requirement to provide a daily act of collective worship.

As a valued part of the school curriculum, we expect schools and academies to provide appropriate support to build up staff expertise in RE. This could include supporting at least one member of staff to obtain specialist training or qualifications in RE, providing access to professional development in RE for all teaching staff, and ensuring that all teaching staff and governors understand the purpose of RE and its contribution to the religious character of the school.

The Diocesan RE Adviser supports all schools in the Diocese of Lincoln in their delivery of RE, in line with the DBE Measure (1991, 2.1). If you have any queries about any element of the delivery of RE in your school or academy, please contact her at [gillian.georgiou@lincoln.anglican.org](mailto:gillian.georgiou@lincoln.anglican.org).

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