

# Discovery RE<sup>®</sup>

The enquiry-based approach to  
Religious Education for F1 to Year 6



## Information for parents



[www.discoveryschemeofwork.com](http://www.discoveryschemeofwork.com)

## What are the aims of Religious Education?

RE aims to give children the knowledge, critical thinking skills, and open-minded and respectful attitude with which to investigate the world of religion and beliefs (theirs and others'), and make their own decisions about what this means to them, whilst empathising with what it means to those who hold those beliefs.

It also aims to enable children to grow spiritually by developing their awareness and skills of reflection, their experience of awe and wonder and their appreciation of stillness and silence.



## Does my child have to attend RE lessons?

RE is a statutory subject in all schools in England, except for those children withdrawn at the request of their parents. (Education Act 2002, section 80). It is parents' legal right to withdraw their children from Religious Education. Schools should provide parents with information about the RE curriculum (an RE policy should also be available), and ensure they are aware of their right of withdrawal. To exercise this right parents need to speak to their child's school.



## What do schools have to teach in RE?

According to the latest guidance from the government, via the National Curriculum, every school needs to have a broad and balanced curriculum that

- promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school
- prepares pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life
- promotes British values.

Schools also have statutory responsibilities to promote community cohesion (Education Act, 2006). RE plays an important part in fulfilling all of these responsibilities.

Because RE is a statutory subject which sits alongside but not in the National Curriculum, there is no national curriculum dictating the content of each school's RE programme. There is national non-statutory guidance, however. The content of the school's RE curriculum is determined locally, mindful of the different involvement of religions in the schools' status and governance. Whether your school has adopted the locally agreed syllabus or agreed their own with the Department of Education or through their denominational body, this will be clarified in the school's Religious Education Policy which is available from your school on request.

## What is Discovery RE?

Discovery RE is a comprehensive ENQUIRY-BASED, teaching programme for Religious Education for Years F1-6, a set of medium-term planning offering structure and a whole-school programme for primary school RE. This approach takes very seriously the philosophy that children are free to make their own choices and decisions concerning religion and belief but that to do this meaningfully they need knowledge and skills with which to evaluate different belief positions including their own.



## What is the Discovery RE teaching approach?

The 2013 Ofsted report on RE, "Religious Education: realising the potential", suggests "using the approach of a philosophical enquiry can deepen and extend pupils' investigation into religion".

"In the most effective RE teaching, enquiry is based at the heart of the learning".

Discovery RE promotes this enquiry-based model because it had become evident from teachers and children's work across hundred of schools in England, that this motivates in-depth exploration of RE content/subject knowledge in order to answer big enquiry questions like:

What is good about Good Friday?

Does joining the Khalsa make a person a better Sikh?

Does belief in Akhirah (life after death) help Muslims lead good lives?

Subject content includes Christianity in every year group, as recommended in the national guidance, as well as one other principal religion in each year group.

Principal religions covered include Christianity plus Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism

## How can I find out more information about Discovery RE in my child's school?

Talk to your child's teacher or the school RE leader about how Discovery RE is taught in school and which religions are studied when. They will provide you with a curriculum overview and answer any questions you may have. Alternatively, you can talk to the school's head teacher. If there are some very specific questions that the head teacher or class teacher thinks would be best answered by the Discovery RE team, the school can contact the team directly. Parents and carers are very welcome to visit the Discovery RE website at [www.discoveryschemeofwork.com](http://www.discoveryschemeofwork.com) where there is further information including a video explaining in more detail the ethos and content of Discovery RE.

We look forward to supporting children with high quality Religious Education.

**Discovery RE Ltd**

**Jan Lever Group**

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