

Vision and Aims

The vision for Religious Education (RE) in Staffordshire's Agreed Syllabus 2023 is as follows:-

The role of RE in schools is to help prepare and equip all pupils for life and citizenship in today's diverse and plural Britain, through fostering in each pupil an increasing awareness of, and sensitivity within, the diversity of religious and non-religious beliefs, practices, spiritual insights and world views** they will encounter.

By **EXPLORING, ENGAGING** and **REFLECTING**, pupils will develop the knowledge, insights and skills necessary for them to be able to live authentically and responsibly as adults in today's world, acknowledging how religious and secular communities seek to uphold and develop the well-being of the human family.

Rationale

We live in an increasingly diverse society, religiously and culturally. Religious Education plays a special role in preparing pupils to flourish in this complex world. Educating pupils to live well in a culturally and religiously plural society means that they must learn how to navigate difference and diversity. This will often mean reflecting on views and behaviours that they have previously not encountered, and which may not correspond neatly with their own views and understandings of the world. Religious Education therefore not only enables pupils to build up a core basis of relevant knowledge and insights and supports them as they explore the "big questions" about life and formulate and express their own views and values. It also challenges pupils to recognise and confront negative attitudes towards diversity, both in society at large and within themselves.

** Note on world views

A "world view" is the framework of beliefs and values which shape the way a person experiences and responds to the world. Everyone has a world view, though this may not be acknowledged and articulated in a fully conscious form. When a group of people consciously share the same world view, they often express this in organised and tangible ways, and commit to it as part of their individual identities. Such a shared world view may be religious in character, or non-religious. Religious Education brings pupils into contact with a range of world views, encouraging each pupil to develop and forge their own personal sense of values, identity and world view, both in the context of the pupil's cultural heritage and also more widely in relation to the diversity of world views found within society as a whole.

Throughout the text of this document, we have used the form 'world views' for consistency wherever the phrase occurs (except when quoting a title or other existing material).

Other forms are in use as well, such as Worldviews, World Views, world-views etc. Different nuances are sometimes read into certain forms of the phrase. The form 'world views' has been adopted here to avoid conveying any overt or hidden agenda relating to the phrase.