

SEND – Ambition and Access in Religious Education



Ambition – What are we aiming for pupils with SEND to achieve in this subject?

- To have high expectations of what an SEN child can understand or explain during a RE lesson.
- RE is a chance for them to explain their own thoughts and beliefs which aren't limited to ability.
- Individual children's barriers should be considered for the specific support needed; however, linking the concrete with the abstract should allow all children to understand other's beliefs as well as explaining their own.

Access - What amendments are made to the subject to help pupils with SEND to achieve?

Ensuring that pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) have access to Religious Education (RE) in primary school is essential for their holistic development and inclusion. RE provides opportunities for pupils to explore and understand different belief systems, ethics, and cultural perspectives.

Here are strategies and considerations for providing effective SEND support in RE:

Collaboration and Communication:

- Collaborate closely with special education professionals, parents, and caregivers to understand the unique needs of pupils with SEND.
- Maintain open and regular communication to discuss progress, goals, and strategies.

Accessible Materials and Resources:

- Ensure that RE materials and resources, including textbooks, reading materials, and visual aids, are available in accessible formats, such as large print, braille, or digital, to meet the needs of pupils with visual impairments or other disabilities.

Differentiate Instructions:

- Tailor RE instructions to accommodate diverse learning styles, abilities, and communication methods.

- Offer a variety of teaching strategies, including visual aids, hands-on activities, storytelling, and multimedia resources, to engage pupils.

Visual and Multisensory Materials:

- Provide visual aids, diagrams, images, and tactile materials to support pupils' understanding of religious concepts, rituals, and cultural practices.
- Incorporate multisensory activities, such as interactive simulations or object-based learning, to make RE more engaging and accessible.

Adaptive Technology:

- Utilise adaptive technology tools, such as screen readers or text-to-speech software, to assist pupils with reading or comprehension difficulties.
- Make sure pupils have access to any necessary assistive technology devices or resources.

Inclusive Classroom Environment:

- Foster an inclusive classroom environment where students with SEND in RE feel valued and included in all discussions and activities.
- Promote respectful discussions and encourage pupils to share their perspectives and experiences.

Flexible Assessment:

- Modify assessment methods to accommodate the unique abilities and challenges of each pupil with SEND.

Allow alternative ways of demonstrating understanding, such as oral presentations, creative projects, or multimedia presentations.

Sensory Considerations:

- Be mindful of sensory sensitivities or challenges that some pupils with SEND may have. Create a comfortable and non-disruptive learning environment that minimizes sensory distractions.

Peer Support:

- Encourage peer support and mentorship among pupils. Pair SEND children to a partner who can help, support, and friendship during RE tasks.

Cultural Sensitivity:

- Ensure that RE materials and discussions are culturally sensitive and inclusive of diverse belief systems, traditions, and worldviews.

- Promote understanding and respect for different faiths and cultures.

Teacher Training/CPD:

- Provide RE teachers with training and professional development on inclusive teaching practices and strategies for supporting pupils with SEND.

By implementing these strategies and creating an inclusive RE environment, primary school educators can help students with SEND engage in meaningful discussions about religion, ethics, and culture while fostering a sense of belonging and respect for diverse perspectives. Regular assessment and communication with students, parents, and specialists are essential components of effective SEND support in RE.