

Overview for Teachers

This series of documents, and the associated Pupil Personal Knowledge Reflection Journals for each key stage, aim to support you in seeing where the three types of knowledge mentioned in the Ofsted Research Report on Religious Education (May 2021) are present in the end-of-key stage outcomes in the current Coventry and Warwickshire Agreed Syllabus (CWAS).



Substantive knowledge

The substantive knowledge (the facts and information imparted through the RE curriculum) can be routinely assessed within RE lessons through teacher questioning, appropriate assessment tasks and regular retrieval practice activities that allow pupils to see how their knowledge is deepening and where there are gaps in their knowledge (see the recent RE and Retrieval Practice document for some ideas).

Disciplinary Knowledge

Embedded within the end-of-key-stage outcomes from the current CWAS is the assumption that disciplinary and personal knowledge is also developing alongside substantive knowledge acquisition as pupils move through the subsequent key stages. The associated documents aim to make that clear, highlighting elements of disciplinary knowledge and methodology (this may need to be added to existing RE curriculums where RE today units of work do not make disciplinary methods clear; further advice to follow on this) across the CWAS's three main strands:



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| Α | B | С | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|
| Knowing about and | Expressing and | Gaining and deploying the | | |
| understanding religions and | communicating ideas related | skills for studying religions | | |
| worldviews | to religions and worldviews | and worldviews | | |

Personal Knowledge

As well as disciplinary knowledge, the documents pose questions to support pupils in accessing the personal knowledge they bring to RE lessons and the unique positioning and interaction each pupil makes with the subject content due to their own worldview. The accompanying Pupil Personal Knowledge Reflection Journals include these same questions across the three strands of the CWAS and are age-appropriate. However, they are provided in Word format so you can adapt and amend them as needed. The first few pages are a generic introduction to what it means to have a personal worldview. You might invite pupils to watch the Theos Think Tank short film, *Nobody Stands Nowhere* (https://youtu.be/AFRxKF-Idos), to introduce them to the idea of everyone having a personal worldview before they begin thinking about their own. Following that, questions are ordered by the three strands of the CWAS. You may choose to identify the appropriate questions for several lessons in a unit from across the different strands, ask pupils to highlight and date these and answer in the column alongside as you engage in enquiry through the unit. Sometimes additional scaffolding is provided to support pupil answers.

Using the Documents

There are three overview documents, one for each of the three strands A, B, C. Each document has the three desired outcomes for each key stage for that strand on it. For example:





There are 3 sets of end-of-key-stage outcomes for each strand: A1, A2, A3 - B1, B2, B3 - C1, C2, C3. You will find the original statements on the following pages in the CWAS:

KS1: p.32, KS2: p.46, KS3: p.70



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Using the Documents

There are several ways you might choose to use these documents in your school:

1) Disciplinary Knowledge

Introducing staff to the disciplinary knowledge ('Ways of knowing') within the RE Curriculum:

The document identifies concepts explored within the three main disciplines of RE and also how methodology develops as pupils move through the key stages. For example:

| Key Stage | Theology | Philosophy | Human & Social Sciences | | | |
|--------------|--|---|---|--|--|--|
| 1 | Text annotation Own interpretation of texts Art interpretation | Discussion Debate (silent and verbal) Moral dilemmas | Observation (through film, visits, visitors) Interview (questioning individuals) Exploring artefacts | | | |
| 2 | Text analysis Interpretations of text Art criticism Theologies of reading (approaches to scared texts by religious communities/scholars) | Debate (silent and verbal) Thought experiments Summarising philosophical ideas from key thinkers Morality and ethics | Ethnographic study (through film, websites, visits to places of worship, observing visitors with artefacts/sacred text) Interview (individuals and groups) Predicate and evaluate responses Survey Simple data interpretation | | | |
| 3 | Hermeneutics Historical-social contexts of texts (e.g. authorship, authority, readership) Art criticism Literary criticism History of theology | Debate Thought experiments Balanced arguments Justifying positions Morality and ethics | Ethnographic study (through film, websites, visits to places of worship, observing visitors with artefacts/sacred text) Interview panels Survey Data analysis and interpretation | | | |



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Whilst these methods may not be completely obvious in the existing RE Today units for our current CWAS, this document would help teachers to begin adding such methodology in to RE lessons as part of an enquiry approach to learning about religions and worldviews.

2) Tier 2 and Tier 3 Vocabulary

Exploring the ways in which different tiers of vocabulary build within the RE curriculum and planning intentional ways for pupils' vocabulary to improve (see 'Teaching Religious Vocabulary CPD on the Warwickshire SACRE website). Here is an example of vocabulary within A2:

| A2 Vocabulary Development | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------|--|
| KS1 Tier 2 | KS1 Tier 3: | KS1 Tier 3: | KS2 Tier 2 | KS2 Tier 3: | KS2 Tier 3: | KS3 Tier 2 | KS3 Tier 3: | KS3 Tier 3: | |
| Learning Skills | Disciplinary | Personal | Learning Skills | Disciplinary | Personal | Learning Skills | Disciplinary | Personal | |
| | Knowledge | Knowledge | | Knowledge | Knowledge | | Knowledge | Knowledge | |
| Retell | Analysis | Sacred | Describe | Analyse | Wisdom | Explain | Hermeneutics | Authority | |
| Suggest | Interpretation | Special | Make links | Interpret | Sacred | Interpret | Authority | Convincing | |
| Explore | Morals | Important | Respond | Approach | Role model | Experience | Context | argument | |
| Discuss Recognise | Observation | Believe | thoughtfully | Recite | Religious | | Historical-social | Guidance | |
| Recognise | Interview | | | Summarise | Artefacts | | Balanced | Worship | |
| | Artefacts | | | Observe | Guidance | | argument | | |
| | | | | Interview | | | Debate | | |
| | | | | Lived | | | Critical thinking | | |
| | | | | experience | | | Case study | | |
| | | | | | | | Lived | | |
| | | | | | | | experience | | |



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3) Introducing Staff and Pupils to Personal Knowledge

Using the personal knowledge questions from the documents, and associated journals, to introduce pupils to concepts of personal worldviews and positionality (the position from which they view the world, determined by their own context (e.g. family, culture, peers, religious identity, educational experience, etc). The journal also introduces the concept of metacognition, inviting pupils to consider how they learn best in RE. Here are some sample pages from the KS2 Personal Knowledge Reflection Journal:





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4) Assessment in RE

Creating your own/amending your assessment system so that disciplinary knowledge is assessed in RE (keeping this very simple, perhaps only tracking one of two aspects of disciplinary knowledge that the school particularly wants to focus on).

5) Subject Knowledge

Using the documents to inform your subject knowledge as RE subject leader so that when we move to the new CWAS in 2024 you will be better informed about the three types of knowledge, the disciplines within RE and the role personal knowledge plays in learning in RE, especially in a worldviews approach.