



Religious Education Policy

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Review	2025

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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

Introduction

The policy is carried out within the context and spirit of the school's mission statement – “Aiming high, caring for everyone”, related to the ‘fullness of life’ depicted in John 10:10. It supports and reinforces the agreed values and aims of Christ Church & St. Peter's C of E Primary School.

Our new RE syllabus (2016) follows the recommendations of the Diocesan Board of Education and reflects the school's religious foundation. It reflects ‘Religious Education in Church of England Schools A Statement of Entitlement 2019’ and includes use of the Understanding Christianity resource now embedded in school practice.

Our policy recognises a need for pupils to:

- know about and understand Christianity as a living faith that influences the lives of people worldwide and as the religion that has most shaped British culture and heritage;
- know and understand about other major world religions and world views, their impact on society, culture and the wider world, enabling pupils to express ideas and insights;
- contribute to the development of pupils' own spiritual/philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own beliefs and values.

In school, our intention is to help pupils to be knowledgeable about Christianity and to develop a respect and understanding of those with different beliefs, including those represented in our own school community.

Children are offered opportunities to consider the response of religion to fundamental questions about the purpose of being, morality and ethical standards. They will be encouraged to adopt a reflective attitude and to develop their own ideas.

It is a statutory requirement that schools teach Religious Education as prescribed by the locally agreed syllabus. At Christ Church & St. Peter's C of E Primary School, this means the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education for the Diocese of Leicester Board of Education, which is the Leicestershire RE Syllabus (2021) which now includes Understanding Christianity (2016).

Aims

At Christ Church & St. Peter's C of E Primary School, we aim to:

- Lead the children in an exploration of Christianity, enabling them to acquire a knowledge and understanding of the beliefs and practices of the Christian faith;
- Enable pupils to have a basic understanding of the nature, practices and beliefs of other world faiths;
- Recognise and appreciate the richness of the spiritual dimension of life;
- Understand and respect how religious beliefs and values affect ways of living;
- Develop a reflective and caring approach to life;
- Teach tolerance and challenge prejudice towards people of different faiths through providing opportunities to develop an understanding of the value of living in a multicultural, multi-faith and multi-lingual society;
- Foster feelings of awe, wonder, delight and mystery and to help children learn from life experiences which they encounter, such as the excitement of birth, celebration of marriage & the emotions felt when coping with loss, suffering, fear and death;

- Enable children to develop the confidence to express their own thoughts and ideas about religion and to listen to others with whom they come into contact;
- Maintain close links with the Anglican churches in the village and other religious communities, through visiting speakers, and out-of-classroom activities;

To open up a vision of how life for all the world's citizens may be transformed and flourish.

Entitlement and Curriculum

Statutory entitlement for dedicated curriculum time committed to the delivery of RE should aim to be close to 10% but must be no less than 5%. The RE entitlement is totally separate from requirements for Collective Worship.

KS1 pupils are entitled to a minimum of the equivalent of 36 hours per year, and KS2 to 45 hours per year - this may be taught by concentrating work into longer blocks of work.

Christianity will be the majority study in RE, comprising at least two thirds of curriculum time.

It is expected that much of the teaching of Religious Education will be linked to other curriculum areas, particularly PSHCE and SMSC, as well as through Collective Worship and current affairs.

Assessment and Achievement

Pupils' Religious Education will follow the 2021 Agreed syllabus. Assessment in the subject will determine whether pupils have met expected levels, exceeded or fallen short of the attainment expected for their year group for each unit of work.

Pupil achievement in RE should equal or be better than comparable subjects.

Teachers will ensure that pupils who have Special Educational Needs have equal access to Religious Education, through supporting them with differentiated activities, a range of teaching styles, and appropriate resources.

More Able children will be given opportunities to broaden their understanding, and undertake independent study.

Inclusion and Anti-Racist Attitudes

In teaching RE we aim to encourage children to:

- Honour all members of our school community, as children of God, regardless of race, language or culture;
- Celebrate differences within our school and society;
- Be nurtured in a community where they can grow in love and respect for others and in religious literacy;
- Experience a community where children and adults of all races work and learn together in partnership.

Right of Withdrawal

By law (Education Act 1988), parents/carers may withdraw their children from RE if they wish. Parents can request that a pupil be wholly or partly excused from RE and the school must comply. Parents are not obliged to state their reasons for seeking withdrawal.

Schools are responsible for the supervision of any child withdrawn by its parents /carers from RE. A pupil may, if the parent/carer requests this, be withdrawn from school premises to receive R.E. elsewhere, so long as the LA is satisfied that this will not interfere with the child's attendance at school other than at the beginning or end of any school session. [Circular 1/94].

Teachers who do not wish to participate in or conduct RE also have a right of withdrawal.

Any member of staff or a parent who wishes to withdraw their child from the teaching of Religious Education is encouraged to discuss this request with the Headteacher.

Management of Religious Education

The Role of the Headteacher

The Headteacher will:

- Ensure all teaching staff and governors having an understanding of the distinctive role and purpose of RE within church schools;
- Provide positive support to staff in providing effective and outstanding RE;
- Monitor the work of the Religious Education Co-coordinator, through discussion of findings and standards;
- Keep the Governing Body well informed about the standards in Religious Education in the school;
- Ensure that RE is given status in the School's Development Plan;
- Ensure that the self-evaluation document is regularly up-dated & areas for development identified by Section 48 inspectors /SIAMS inspectors are addressed;
- Ensure that the school is kept up to date following the advice from the DBE and the Church of England Education Office;
- Ensure access to appropriate professional development for staff.

The Role of the Co-coordinator

The Co-coordinator for Religious Education will work closely with the Headteacher, staff, Governors and Diocesan Board of Education to:

- Ensure teachers are familiar with the school's curriculum framework for teaching Religious Education;
- Manage the allocated budget for Religious Education, and ensure staff are well resourced, ensuring principles of best value for money;
- Ensure availability of and familiarity with the Diocesan Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education;
- Prepare, organise and lead INSET as required, with the support of the Headteacher;
- Work with the SENCo and other key staff, to inclusively advise and support all children;
- Undertake learning walks to monitor the T & L of RE during the year, and make recommendations about development needs accordingly;
- Liaise with other co-coordinators within our local family of schools, DLAT schools;
- Monitor agreed aspects of standards in Religious Education regularly, through:
 - * work-sampling
 - * observations
 - * pupil interviews
 - * scrutiny of planning;

- * Analyse data and use this to inform developments in teaching and learning;
- * Discuss regularly with the Headteacher and Governors the progress of implementing the policy, and issues regarding standards.

The Role of Governors

Local governors share responsibility with the DBE / DLAT Directors and the Headteacher for ensuring that the requirements for Religious Education are met in school.

Governors will:

- Meet with the Headteacher and Religious Education Co-coordinator to discuss the provision of Religious Education;
- Talk with teachers and join some Religious Education lessons, as part of their annual monitoring visit; Agree an Action Plan for the development of Religious Education with the Headteacher and Religious Education Co-coordinator.
- Ensure that the legal requirements are met.
- Be fully involved in the self-evaluation of school by regularly up-dating the self-evaluation tool kit taking into account the needs and views of staff, pupils, parents, the church and the DBE/DLAT.

Monitoring, Evaluation & Review

This policy was agreed by Staff & Governors and will be reviewed as part of our Monitoring, Evaluation and Review Cycle.