



# ST. GEORGE'S COFE SCHOOL

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

<b>APPROVED BY:</b>	The Senior Leadership Team		
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## CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION .....	3
LEGAL POSITION OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN SCHOOL .....	3
THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND'S STATEMENT OF ENTITLEMENT .....	3
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE SCHOOL'S CHRISTIAN VISION .....	4
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION INTENT .....	4
SCHOOL APPROACH TO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION .....	5
ORGANISATION & TIME ALLOCATION .....	6
ASSESSMENT / RECORDING & REPORTING .....	7
RESPONSIBILITIES FOR RE IN SCHOOL .....	7
THE RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL FROM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION.....	8
REVIEW.....	8



## INTRODUCTION

This policy has been written in the light of the Church of England's Vision for Education (Autumn 2016), Valuing all God's Children (Summer 2019) and through reflection on the 2023 SIAMS Evaluation Framework for schools.

## LEGAL POSITION OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN SCHOOL

Religious Education (RE) is unique in the curriculum as it is neither a core or foundation subject. The 1988 Education Act states 'Religious Education has equal standing in relation to core subjects of the National Curriculum in that it is compulsory for all pupils'.

St George's C of E School is a Church of England Voluntary Controlled School and therefore follows the Worcestershire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2020 – 2025.

## THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND'S STATEMENT OF ENTITLEMENT

The Church of England's Statement of Entitlement (February 2019) outlines the aims and expectations for RE in Church of England schools and guides this school's approach to RE.

It begins by stating: 'Religious Education in a Church school should enable every child to flourish and to live life in all its fullness (John 10:10). It will help to educate for dignity and respect encouraging all to live well together'.

Quoting from the Church of England's *Vision for Education: Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good*, it continues: 'Such an approach is offered through a commitment to generous hospitality, being true to our underpinning faith, but with a deep respect for the integrity of other religious traditions (and worldviews) and for the religious freedom of each person'.

**The School's Vision:**



At St George's CofE school, our vision underpins everything we do. Through our RE provision, we provide children with opportunities to gain a deep knowledge, understanding and awareness of Christianity, the other major world religions and non- religious world views.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION INTENT

The intent of Religious Education at St George's CofE School is to:

-Provide staff and children with the knowledge, understanding and awareness of Christianity as a diverse global living faith and its relevance to their daily lives.

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- Provide staff and children with the knowledge and understanding of other major world religions and worldviews, their impact on society, culture and the wider world.
- Develop staff and pupils' capacities to engage in a search for meaning and purpose in order to enhance their own spiritual and moral growth.
- To explore their own religious, spiritual and philosophical ways of living, believing and thinking and to develop pupils' willingness to challenge religious, racial and cultural stereotyping.
- To develop children's religious literacy skills, so they can hold balanced and well-informed conversations about religion and belief.

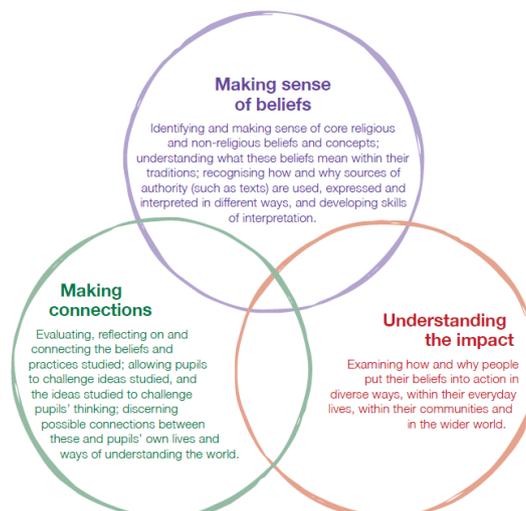
## SCHOOL APPROACH TO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

In-line with all church schools, this school has duty to provide accurate knowledge and understanding of religions and world views.

RE is seen as a core subject and is allocated at least 5% of the curriculum time to ensure sufficient time is given in order to enable pupils to meet the expectations set out in the agreed syllabus. RE is considered to be part of the curriculum time and is separate from collective worship.

Our long-term plan ensures that Christianity is the main religious worldview studied equating to at least 50% of curriculum time and by the end of KS2, children will have studied the following religions: Islam, Hinduism, Judaism. Summer Term also ensures that each year group studies a key question, where the focus is a comparison of religions or worldviews. This thematic approach allow children to build on their learning by comparing the religions, beliefs and practices they have studied.

The agreed syllabus has three core elements which are covered in every unit of work. They are woven together to provide breadth and balance within teaching and learning about religions and beliefs.





In order to make religious education a lively, active subject we employ a variety of teaching methods including art, music, discussion, the development of thinking skills, drama, the use of artefacts, pictures, stories, and the use of periods of stillness and reflection.

All year groups, except Reception and Year One (in the Autumn Term) have individual RE books to record their work and personal ideas and beliefs. The Reception class have a whole class RE Floor book, which provides a record of their learning opportunities and the activities they do.

Care is taken throughout the teaching of RE to ensure appropriate language is used. Belief or non-belief is not assumed on the part of children or adults. The phrase 'many Christians believe', 'some people believe' is used rather than 'we believe'.

We appreciate the positive impact that local faith communities can have on pupils' experience in RE. Therefore, we encourage visits to places of worship and welcomes visitors from different faith communities. We also have a very strong link with our local church and strive to look for opportunities to invite the clergy to join us in our lessons when it is appropriate.

We recognise it is vitally important that teachers demonstrate respectful attitudes towards all faiths, modelling the attitudes and responses we would expect from our pupils.

As identified in the *Statement of Entitlement*, teaching and learning in RE in this school will provide:

- a challenging and robust curriculum based on an accurate theological framework
- an assessment process which has rigour and demonstrates progression based on knowledge and understanding of core religious concepts
- a curriculum that draws on the richness and diversity of religious experience worldwide
- a pedagogy that instils respect for different views and interpretations; and, in which real dialogue and theological enquiry takes place
- the opportunity for pupils to deepen their understanding of the religion and world views as lived by believers.
- RE that makes a positive contribution to Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development.

## ORGANISATION & TIME ALLOCATION

In accordance with the structure of Worcestershire Agreed Syllabus we have agreed that, as a minimum:

- in the Foundation Stage pupils will encounter Christianity and other faiths, as part of their growing sense of self, their own community and their place within it. They will be introduced to a range of faith traditions and will be taught RE for 36 hours over the year
- at Key Stage 1 pupils study Christianity and Judaism or Islam - RE will be taught for at least for 36 hours over the year
- at Key Stage 2 pupils study Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Islam and also consider non-religious worldviews - RE will be taught for at least for 45 hours over the year.



## ASSESSMENT / RECORDING & REPORTING

The Worcestershire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2020-2025 sets out a structure for recognising pupil achievements and each pupil can work progressively towards achieving the expected end of Key Stage learning outcomes as outlined in the syllabus.

The SLT and RE coordinator are responsible for monitoring the RE teaching and learning across the school. This is done through classroom observations, scrutiny of planning, books and floor books and having conversations both with staff and pupils.

Class teachers will assess their pupils' attainment and progress throughout the year, using a range of formative assessment strategies to form a judgement at the end of each unit taught.

A teacher's assessment is informed by activities including:

- Marking written work
- Observations of discussions
- Observation of group activities
- Discussions with individuals
- Exit quiz questions based on the key objectives from the unit

School reports are sent home in the Summer term of each year. Parents are told whether children are achieving year group expectations for RE, or working below year group expectations.

## RESPONSIBILITIES FOR RE IN SCHOOL

The Headteacher has ultimate responsibility for ensuring that the legal framework for RE is carried out and that the teaching of RE fits within the school's distinctively Christian vision. At St George's C of E School some of the responsibilities for RE may be delegated to other members of staff.

The **Subject Leader** is responsible for:

- ensuring personal subject knowledge and expertise are kept up-to-date by participating in Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for RE and share good practice
- attending RE clusters / hub meetings
- providing and sourcing in-service training for staff as necessary
- ensuring the staff are familiar with the syllabus and supporting resources such as *Understanding Christianity*
- supporting and clarifying approach to planning, delivery and assessment being clear about the subject's intent, implementation and impact
- acquiring and organising appropriate resources
- monitoring the teaching and learning of RE through regular lesson observations, work scrutiny, learning walks, analysis of data and pupil voice and being able to discuss impact and standards, all in conjunction with the Headteacher / Senior Leadership Team
- contributing to the SIAMS self-evaluation process, including, but not limited to Inspection Question



The **Headteacher and Governors** must ensure:

- RE has a high profile within the curriculum
- that the legal framework for RE is upheld within the school
- that all pupils make progress in achieving the learning outcomes of the RE curriculum
- the subject is well led and effectively managed and that standards and achievement in RE and the quality of the provision are subject to regular and effective self-evaluation
- those teaching RE are suitably qualified and trained in the subject and have effective and regular opportunities for CPD
- teachers newly-appointed to church schools are provided with support offered by the diocese to enable them to become effective teachers of RE
- that clear information is provided for parents on the RE curriculum and the right to withdraw
- RE is resourced, staffed and timetabled so that the school can fulfil its legal obligations on RE and pupils make good progress
- appropriate support is in place to ensure the effective provision of RE.

## THE RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL FROM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

At St George's C of E School, we wish to be an inclusive community but recognise that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from RE on the grounds of conscience. However, the right of withdrawal does not extend to other areas of the curriculum when, as may happen on occasions, spontaneous questions on religious matters are raised by pupils or there are issues related to religion that arise in other subjects such as history and citizenship.

Where parents make a request to withdraw their child(ren) from the teaching of RE, the school will, as a matter of courtesy, ensure that the parents are aware of the following:

- The learning objectives covered in RE so that parents can make an informed decision.
- What supervision arrangements will be in place for child(ren).

We would ask any parent considering this to contact the Headteacher to discuss any concerns and anxieties about the policy, provision and practice of RE at our school.

## REVIEW

This policy will be subject to the normal cycle of policy review and will be reviewed and ratified by the governing body every two years. Furthermore, there may be occasions where this policy is reviewed outside the normal review cycle, including but not limited to:

- Change in Agreed Syllabus
- Change in legal position framework for RE

