

Policy for Religious Education (RE)

Queen Elizabeth's Church of England School/Academy

In Queen Elizabeth's School our Christian vision shapes all we do. Our commitment to Hope finds its theological roots in the story of Job. **'You will be secure because there is hope' Job 11:18**

Rationale

'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 educate people for dignity and respect, encouraging all to live life well together.'

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. **(RE Statement of Entitlement from the Church of England Education Office Feb 2019)**

Pupils and their families can expect a high quality religious education (RE) curriculum that is rich and varied, enabling learners to acquire a thorough knowledge and understanding of a range of faiths and worldviews. RE has a very high profile within the curriculum and makes a significant contribution to preparing pupils for life in modern Britain.

Christianity is taught as a living and diverse faith, focused on the teachings of Jesus and the Church, alongside a range of religions and worldviews. We encourage pupils to learn from different religions, beliefs, values and traditions while creating a safe space for them to explore their own beliefs and questions of meaning.

We aim for pupils to be inspired by the subject and that through their learning in RE they will develop a wide range of skills such as enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and reflection, to deepen their understanding of the impact of religion on the world.

Legal Requirements

As a Voluntary Aided School, our governing body determines our RE curriculum, which is in accordance with the school's trust deed and has been discussed with The Diocese of Salisbury Board of Education. The school teaches religious education according to the Dorset agreed syllabus. The school teaches religious education according to the Dorset locally agreed syllabus, with additional teaching on Christianity. Section 48 of the 2005 Education Act requires the inspection of religious education in schools which have a religious character. This is the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS).

The term worldviews is used throughout this policy/in our school to refer to a person's way of understanding, experiencing and responding to the world. It can be described as a philosophy of life or an approach to life. It could refer to an 'institutional' worldview to describe organised worldviews including religions as well as Humanism, Secularism and Atheism or a 'personal' worldview for an individual's way of understanding and living in the world which may be drawn from one or many institutionalised worldviews. **Based on Commission on Religious Education, Religion and worldviews: The way forward A national plan for RE (Religious Education Council for England and Wales 2018)**



Aims of RE- Curriculum Intent

As stated in the Church of England Statement of Entitlement for Religious Education, our school aims for all pupils:

- Through exploration of core beliefs and using an approach that critically engages with biblical text, to enable pupils to know about and understand Christianity as a diverse, global and living faith that influences the lives of people worldwide and as the religion that has most shaped British culture and heritage.
- To enable pupils to know about and understand different major world religions and world views, their impact on society, culture and the wider world, and to appreciate the diversity, continuity and change within those religions and worldviews
- To engage with challenging questions of meaning and purpose raised by human existence and experience.
- To contribute to the development of pupils' own spiritual/philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own beliefs, ways of living, thinking and values.

Curriculum Balance

Reflecting the school's trust deed or academy funding agreement parents and pupils are entitled to expect that in Church schools Christianity should be the majority religion studied in each year group and should be at least 50% of curriculum time. Sufficient dedicated curriculum time, meeting explicitly RE objectives, however organised, should be committed to the delivery of RE. This should aim to be close to 10% but must be no less than 5% in key stages 1-4.

All pupils in Church schools should follow a recognised and appropriate qualification or course in RE or Religious Studies at KS4. This includes pupils who have SEND. The study of Christianity will be a significant part of any Religious Studies qualification offered.

The school must make it possible for those students who achieve suitable grades at GCSE or equivalent to follow appropriate A level courses. This should be in addition to the provision of core RE entitlement for all students at KS5 which should continue to develop student's understanding of Christianity and other religions and worldviews.

Schools must take note that the RE entitlement is totally separate from requirements for collective worship. Collective worship must not be considered curriculum time for RE or the teaching of RE.

Curriculum Implementation

RE lessons provide a safe space for pupils to explore their own religious, spiritual and/or philosophical ways of seeing, living and thinking, believing and belonging. Lessons provide opportunities to engage in meaningful and informed dialogue with those of all faiths and worldviews. Learning activities provide fully for the needs of all pupils, so that they develop a wide range of skills including enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and reflection.



Teaching in RE aims to challenge stereotypes, misinformation and misconceptions about race, gender and religion. Lessons seek to present religions and world views in all their richness and diversity in terms of beliefs, traditions, customs and lifestyle in a sensitive and accurate way in order to encourage a positive attitude towards diversity. All questions, views, and opinions are treated with sensitivity and respect.

Teachers establish clear links between elements of religious belief and practice and aspects of the children's own lives. Teaching enables pupils to gain something of personal value from their study of religious belief and practice, for example, the way that they might apply insights gained from religious stories to their own lives.

- Religious education is usually taught in a 'whole class' setting but with flexibility to allow for discussion, questioning and reflection in small groups and individually
- Visits to local churches and places of worship and visitors to school are encouraged
- A variety of teaching approaches including teacher presentations, role play, drama art and story-telling as well as quizzes, questions and answer sessions, discussions and debates are employed in order that RE learning is active and enjoyable as well as rigorous and challenging.
- Pupils experience opportunities to learn and express themselves through an enquiry-based style of learning by:

Posing and discussing 'big' and challenging questions

Reading and critically analysing texts.

Interpreting information from different sources.

Seeking information for themselves in libraries and on computers.

Listening to and discussing with the teacher and other pupils.

Engaging in pair and group work.

Exploring a range of media such as artefacts, pictures, photographs, music and drama.

Experiencing visits and visitors.

Taking time for reflection.

In line with the Statement of Entitlement we aim to provide:

- A curriculum that enables pupils to acquire a rich, deep knowledge and understanding of Christian belief and practice
- A curriculum that draws on the richness and diversity of religious experience worldwide
- The opportunity for pupils to deepen their understanding of the religion or worldview as lived by people in Britain and in the world
- A pedagogy that instils respect for different views and interpretations; and in which real dialogue and theological enquiry takes place
- Engaging and varied learning activities that provide for the needs of all learners, supported by high quality resources



- The opportunity for pupils to develop a wide range of skills including enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and reflection
- RE that makes a positive contribution to SMSC development and also to pupils' understanding of British values
- An assessment process which has rigour and demonstrates progression based on knowledge and understanding of core religious concepts

This means that the RE curriculum:

- is intrinsic to the outworking of our distinctive Christian vision in enabling all pupils to flourish. In addition, it contributes to British values and to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- is delivered in an objective, critical and pluralistic manner to engage and challenge all pupils through an exploration of core concepts and questions. Lessons provide meaningful and informed dialogue with a range of religions and worldviews.
- reflects a good balance between the disciplines of theology, philosophy and human science, to enable pupils to develop their religious literacy
- enables pupils to acquire a rich, deep knowledge and understanding of Christian belief and practice, including the ways in which it is unique and diverse, whilst engaging with biblical texts and theological ideas.
- provides opportunities for pupils to understand the role of foundational texts, beliefs, rituals, and practices and how they help to form identity in a range of religions and worldviews.
- supports the development of other curriculum areas and other general educational abilities such as literacy, empathy and the ability to express thoughts, feelings and personal beliefs.
- encompasses the full range of abilities to ensure that all flourish academically, using a wide range of teaching and learning strategies which consider the task, outcome, resource, support and pupil grouping as appropriate to pupils' needs
- offers tasks that are age appropriate, challenging and sufficiently demanding to stimulate and engage all pupils, whilst extending the most able and providing support for those who need it.
- ensures that all pupils' contributions are valued in RE as they draw on their own experiences and beliefs

Cross-curricular links: RE supports the development of general educational abilities such as literacy, empathy and the ability to express thoughts, feelings and personal beliefs. RE also makes a major contribution to pupils' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development. It addresses issues which arise in a range of subjects, such as English, art, drama and history, geography, computing, music as well as personal, social and emotional education and citizenship (PSHE&C). Please also see our [curriculum overview](#).



Managing the right to withdraw

Parents have a right by law to withdraw their children from the Religious Education curriculum and our school will comply with any such request. However, in view of the Christian ethos and distinctive Christian character of our school, we would hope that all children admitted will participate fully in RE, and ask that anyone wishing to withdraw their child arranges to discuss this with the headteacher and to take up the opportunity to discuss the contents of the RE curriculum in school before making this decision.

Resources

Religious Education is funded to enable a range of resources on different religions to be purchased, such as books for teachers, pupils and the library; posters, CDs, DVDs and artefacts. The school makes use of guidance material produced by the Diocese of Salisbury. Funding will also allow, where possible, visits to different places of worship and provide INSET for staff. All resources will be listed, stored, be easily accessible and kept in good condition. Resource banks will be available for both staff and pupils on all major religions and worldviews as appropriate.

Non examined RE – follow a course written by Lat Blaylock of REToday which takes a worldview approach to philosophical and ethical questions.

This is supported with further units taken from [Understanding Christianity](#).

GCSE Option Group – follow AQA (A)

Paper 1 –Christianity and Buddhism

Paper 2 – Themes

[specification link](#)

A Level – OCR Religious Studies

Philosophy, Ethics and Christian Developed Thought

[specification link](#)

Post 16 core

DACW – am registration

Picture News – Friday focus

Picture news is designed to provide opportunities for students to learn from our world and develop respect for others' beliefs, feelings and faiths.

It encourages exploration, discussion, challenge and inspires learning.

Health and Safety

Health and safety issues may arise in religious education for example, when pupils:

- Handle artefacts.
- Consume food.
- Visit places of worship.

Teachers will conform to guidelines in the school's health and safety policy in these circumstances.



Assessment and reporting

Assessment in religious education will:

- Be directly related to the expectations of the *Dorset Locally Agreed Syllabus*
- Be carried out through suitable opportunities identified in resources used in teaching, such as Understanding Christianity.
- Seek to identify pupils' development in the different areas of learning in the subject and not only in the acquisition of factual knowledge.
- Recognise the range of skills and attitudes which the subject seeks to develop.
- Employ well defined criteria for marking and assessment which identify progress and achievement as well as effort, following the school's marking policy.
- Include pupil self-assessment.
- Enable effective tracking of pupil progress to identify areas for development in pupil's knowledge and understanding, as well as whole school areas for development.
- Enable effective reporting to parents.

The Impact of RE - Assessment, Recording, Reporting [Curriculum Map](#)

Monitoring and Evaluation

In our school/academy, governors have responsibility for monitoring the effectiveness of RE and how the RE in the school reflects our Christian vision. In addition to this the Headteacher meets with QEST governors once a term; the quality and provision of RE and collective worship are a standing item on the agenda. This body includes the Reverend Canon Andrew Rowland from The Minster in Wimborne. The Head of RE Emily Willis is also present to update QEST and has regular contact with the Muriel Jacobs treasurer.

How well does RE help pupils to know about and understand Christianity as a living world faith through the exploration of core theological concepts using an approach that critically engages with text? And how well does RE help pupils consider the impact and connection that Christianity has on Britain's cultural heritage and the lives of people worldwide?

How well does RE enable all pupils to develop knowledge and understanding of major world religions and worldviews and their impact on society and culture?

How well does RE give pupils a safe space to critically reflect on their own religious, spiritual and/or philosophical convictions?

The Headteacher Mr Neill has overall responsibility for monitoring and evaluation of the curriculum.

The RE subject leader will assist the headteacher and governors by:

- monitoring long term and medium-term plans to ensure that all pupils receive their legal entitlement to religious education and that RE provision reflects the Church of England Statement of Entitlement.
- monitoring RE through work scrutiny and observation of teaching, carrying out pupil conferencing/pupil voice sessions; reviewing the learning environment/lesson visits.



The subject leader will also:

- Produce and regularly review this subject policy to ensure that it remains up to date.
- Be responsible for drawing up an action plan for religious education. Generally, this will be an annual plan and should be informed by this policy.
- Keep a file/photographic record of examples of pupils' work to demonstrate continuity and progression.
- Ensure all teachers know what should be taught in religious education, what resources are available, and what standards of attainment are expected at the end of each Key Stage.
- Monitor and review the implementation of policy and units of work.
- Monitor the quality and effectiveness of teaching and learning in RE and pupils' progress and standards.
- Ensure there are rigorous assessment systems in place to enable teachers and pupils to gauge progress and attainment in RE.
- Monitor, analyse and question RE assessments carried out by staff so that assessment informs future teaching.
- Liaise with the HT and Governors to feedback on the monitoring and impact of RE across the school.
- Keep up to date with information, initiatives and developments in religious education and disseminate this as appropriate.
- Support colleagues by sharing new ideas and pedagogy, to help develop their subject confidence and expertise through CPD opportunities and support sessions.
- Seek opportunities to share effective practice locally and regionally and engage in professional development for themselves and other staff members.
- Oversee the RE budget and monitor RE resources to ensure they are kept and stored respectfully and replaced where necessary.
- Ensure there is a school protocol that covers safeguarding procedures and a suitability process, for when visitors are invited into RE lessons.
- Liaise with the school's Diocesan adviser and/or the Diocesan adviser with responsibility for Religious Education