



**Willow Park**  
C of E Primary School

# Religious Education Policy

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Approval by:	Federation Leadership Team (St Michael & St George Federation)
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## Version Control

Version	Date	Summary of changes (inc. reason for review if not scheduled review date)

# School Vision

The vision which we have for the school underpins everything we do including how we plan for and deliver Religious Education. The ultimate worth of each person in our school is at the centre of all we do. We value the, 'light' of every individual and we seek to nurture that light and encourage each of us to be the light to others. Our vision motto, 'Be the Light' is underpinned by the verse found in Matthew 5:14: You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. Religious Education has a high status in our school because it offers our pupils from all backgrounds and traditions and others in our school an opportunity to reflect on values and issues in the context of our Christian vision and ethos.

## Aims

The purpose of teaching Religious Education is:

- To enable 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.
- To enable pupils to 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.
- To contribute to the development of pupils' own spiritual/philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own beliefs and values.

## Effective teaching and learning about Religions and World Views

As a Church of England school, we have a duty to provide accurate knowledge and understanding of religions and world views.

We aim to 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 SMSC development.

## **We aim through our teaching**

- To provide a course of Religious Education appropriate to the educational needs of the children in our school, at their different stages of development.
- To contribute to the spiritual, social and moral development of the school as a caring community and the pupils as individuals.
- To assist and encourage experience of Christian life and worship.
- Through study of major world religions to encourage and understanding and appreciation of the rich diversity of religious belief and practice in society today.

## **We aim to encourage children in our school**

- To grow in awareness of others through learning activities involving sharing and co-operation and to develop trust and respect for others.
- To formulate their own sense of purpose in life and to embark upon a personal search for a faith by which to live.
- To learn something of the religious experiences of others.
- To develop their own beliefs, values and ideals in the light of their experiences
- To develop respect for other people, their beliefs and their life-styles.
- To develop an enquiring attitude towards religion and to explore activities of prayer and worship.

## **Legal Requirements**

Being a Church of England school, Religious Education must be taught in accordance with the Trust Deed and should reflect the rites, practices and beliefs of the Church of England. The governing body is responsible for the subject in the school. This is delegated to the Head teacher and the Religious Education subject leader on a daily basis.

Following the Diocese of Bristol advice about Religious Education, and the Statement of Entitlement 2016, teaching about the Christian faith will take up 60% of RE curriculum time and will use materials that will encourage theological literacy such as "Understanding Christianity". For the teaching and learning about other World Faiths the school will follow the locally agreed syllabus.

Religious Education will be allocated not less than 5% of the timetable.

# The Right of Withdrawal

Pupils may be withdrawn from RE or part of RE by a parent or guardian in accordance with Schedule 19 to the School Standards and Framework Act 1998; teachers can exercise their right to withdraw from teaching the subject. However, we hope that all parents and teachers will feel comfortable with the type of religious education being taught at this school. Parents who wish to withdraw their children must provide written notification to this effect, preferably discussing their decision with the head teacher in the first instance.

## Entitlement

The children's entitlement is based upon The Statement of Entitlement 2016 (CofE Education Office). In the main, Religious Education will be taught as a discrete subject although the approach may vary. Religious Education in our school is organized using a whole school overview. This lays out which units, or themes, should be studied by each year group. The Bristol Agreed Syllabus Schemes of Work (Awareness, Mystery and Values are referred to and the units of work about the Christian faith will use the Understanding Christianity materials. Wherever possible all children will learn from primary source material, will be taken on trips to places of worship, and will meet outside speakers representing their beliefs.

## Special Educational Needs

Children with special educational needs and disability will work alongside the other children in their group, as in other curriculum areas, but differentiation in approach, language and expected outcome will be appropriate to the varying needs in the class. We aim to meet the full entitlement of every child in our school. To optimize inclusion the children's differing needs for learning (including children with special educational needs) will be addressed through differentiated activities.

## Resources

The RE subject leader will ensure that RE resources are kept up-to-date and that staff are informed when new resources are purchased or made available electronically. Resources will include source materials (e.g. Bibles, visitors, artefacts) where appropriate and be treated with respect by all staff.

# Planning, Assessment, Reporting and Record Keeping

Long Term Planning is informed by guidance offered by the Diocese, the Agreed Syllabus and The Church of England's Education Office. The provided Unit plans are to be adapted for each class. Where appropriate, the children's learning is marked for depth and children should be encouraged to think at a deeper level via, 'pink to think' marking. Summative reports to parents will be made at the end of the year

## Monitoring and Evaluation

The RE subject leader and SLT will monitor teaching and learning in RE in accordance with school policy. The RE subject leader will observe teaching, conduct book and planning reviews and pupil interviews when appropriate to assess the quality of teaching and learning. The head teacher and governors will ensure that adequate monitoring takes place and that the impact of such activity is assessed.

## Links to other policies and documentation

We ensure that the principles for Religious Education are reflected and applied in our policies and practice including those that are concerned with:

- Collective Worship
- PSHE
- Spirituality