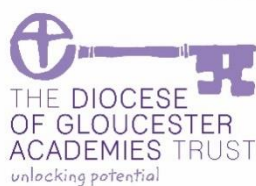




Christ Church C of E Policy for Religious Education



“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9



**“I have come that they may have life,
and have it to the full”**
(WORDS OF JESUS FROM JOHN 10:10)

Author: Debbie Helme, Strategic Lead for RE

**Written in partnership with SW Area Diocesan
Advisors**

Contents

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	3
Religious Education Intent	4
School Approach to Religious Education	4
Organisation & Time Allocation	5
Assessment/Recording & Reporting	5
Responsibilities for RE in School	5
The Right of Withdrawal from Religious Education	6
Managing the Right of Withdrawal	6
APPENDIX ONE – Statement of Entitlement	8

Legal Position of Religious Education in School

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

Christ Church C of E Primary School is a Church of England Academy therefore Religious Education is provided in line with the funding agreement and the academy follows the Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2017 – 2022.

The Church of England's Statement of Entitlement

The Church of England's *Statement of Entitlement* outlines the aims and expectations for Religious Education 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.*

Full details of this document can be found in Appendix One.

Religious Education and the School's Christian Vision

The School's Vision:

At Christ Church C of E Primary School, our vision is to create a **SCHOOL FAMILY** where all children and staff become the **VERY BEST THEY CAN BE** within the **CONTEXT** belief, practice and values.

The Bible tells us in Joshua 1:9 **"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid and do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."**

The death of Moses and the new role that God was calling Joshua to occupy must have frightened and upset him for God to keep repeating to Him that he should be strong and courageous. Joshua was to be strong and courageous because God was with him. Joshua needed to be reminded of this even as believers today. Joshua had a tough act to follow. He had to replace Moses as leader. This verse reminds our pupils that God is with them. Life can be full of challenges, sorrows and tough decisions. There are times in everyone's lives where we worry about the future. We can gain encouragement from this Bible verse. We know the Lord our God will be with us, whatever situation we are in. Therefore, we can have peace and move forward with strength and courage knowing God is by our sides.

We chose Joshua 1:9 as our vision because we want all our children to become the best they can be and by having the strength and courage to persevere, be a good friend, be creative, show compassion and become a respectful member of society. We want to demonstrate the love of God in our world through our Christian values at Christ Church. We want all members of our school community to thrive and know that God is with us wherever we go.

Building on these themes, RE in this school contributes to the outworking of our vision by ensuring our values are at the core of everything we do. Our vision and values underpin our teaching and learning, and help to guide us to provide an environment which prepares our children to become kind, compassionate and happy young people ready to live life in all its fullness and ready for the challenges of the 21st century.

Religious Education Intent

The intent of Religious Education at Christ Church C of E Primary School is to:

"Explore what people believe and what difference this makes to how they live, so that pupils can gain the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to handle questions raised by religion and belief, reflecting on their own ideas and ways of living."

Taken from the Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus for RE 2017-2022.

RE is central to the purpose of Christ Church C of E Primary School because as a church school we see that the Christian faith informs all aspects of our life together and commits us to a search for truth.

At Christ Church C of E Primary School, we seek to enable all children to flourish and live life in all its fullness. As a school family, we understand the vital importance of Religious Education in promoting dignity and respect for everyone and for teaching a full, rich and deep curriculum that encourages children of all faiths, beliefs and backgrounds to live well together in the 21st century. As a Church school, we believe that children should be inspired by RE and encouraged and challenged to explore their own and others' religious, spiritual and philosophical beliefs openly and respectfully. Furthermore, our aim is that children know about and understand Christianity as a diverse living faith that influences the lives of people worldwide and as the religion that has helped to shape British culture and heritage. We also seek to enable our children to know and understand about other major world religions and world views, their impact on society, culture and the wider world, encouraging our children to express and articulate their ideas and insights. Our RE curriculum is developed and delivered to help children explore and enrich their own spiritual convictions, beliefs and values so that they can live life to the fullest.

Our core Christian values of Respect, Compassion, Friendship, Perseverance and Creativity are reinforced through the RE curriculum at our school.

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.

A wide range of imaginative teaching methods and pupil groupings ensure effective RE sessions. We appreciate the positive impact that local faith communities can have on pupils' experience in RE. Therefore this school encourages visits to places of worship and welcomes visitors from different faith communities. 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 SMSC development

Organisation & Time Allocation

In accordance with the structure of Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus we have agreed that:

- In the Foundation Stage pupils 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, Judaism and Islam. RE will be taught for at least for 36 hours over the year.
- At Key Stage 2 pupils study Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism and also consider non-religious worldviews. RE will be taught for at least for 45 hours over the year.

In all phases, this will be achieved through discrete weekly lessons.

Assessment/Recording & Reporting

The Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2017-2022 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. Teachers record pupil progress 3 x a year on SONAR using the end of unit assessment outcomes. Teachers give pupils the opportunity to answer the overall RE enquiry question at the end of each unit of work. School reports are sent home in the summer term of each year and the RE report is written with reference to assessment records as well as pupils' individual work.

Responsibilities for RE in School

The **subject leader** is responsible for overseeing the teaching and learning of religious education in the school. The role includes:

- Ensuring personal subject knowledge and expertise are kept up-to-date by participating in CPD for RE and share good practice
- 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, managing a budget when necessary
- Monitoring the teaching and learning of RE through regular lesson observations, work scrutiny, learning walks, analysis of data and pupil voice and be able to discuss impact and standards
- Contributing to the SIAMS self-evaluation process particularly around Strand 7

The Head Teacher and Governors make sure:

- RE has a high profile within the curriculum
- 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
- 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

The Right of Withdrawal from Religious Education

At Christ Church C of E Primary School, we wish to be an inclusive community but recognise that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from religious education 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.

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

Managing the Right of Withdrawal

The school will ensure that parents who want to withdraw their children from RE are aware of the RE syllabus and that it is relevant to all pupils and respects their own personal beliefs.

- Parents should be made aware of its learning objectives and what is covered in the RE curriculum and should be given the opportunity to discuss this, if they wish.
- The school may also wish to review such a request each year, in discussion with the parents.
- The use of the right to withdraw should be at the instigation of parents (or pupils themselves if they are aged 18 or over), and it should be made clear whether it is from the whole of the subject or specific parts of it. No reasons need be given.
- Parents have the right to choose whether or not to withdraw their child from RE without influence from the school, although a school should ensure that parents or carers are informed of this right and are aware of the educational objectives and content of the RE syllabus. In this way, parents can make an informed decision.
- Where parents have requested that their child is withdrawn, their right must be respected, and where RE is integrated in the curriculum, the school will need to discuss the arrangements with the parents or carers to explore how the child's withdrawal can be best accommodated.
- If pupils are withdrawn from RE, schools have a duty to supervise them, though not to provide additional teaching or to incur extra cost. Pupils will usually remain on school premises.
- Where a pupil has been withdrawn, the law provides for alternative arrangements to be made for RE of the kind the parent wants the pupil to receive. This RE could be provided at the school in question, or the pupil could be sent to another school where suitable RE is provided if this is reasonably convenient.
- If neither approach is practicable, outside arrangements can be made to provide the pupil with the kind of RE that the parent wants, and the pupil may be withdrawn from school for a reasonable period of time to allow them to attend this external RE.
- Outside arrangements for RE are allowed as long as the LA SACRE (VC schools) or diocese (VA schools) is satisfied that any interference with the pupil's attendance at school resulting from the withdrawal will affect only the start or end of a school session.

This policy is to be read in conjunction with:

- The Diocesan Guidance on RE
- SMSC and PSHE policies
- Spiritual Development Policy
- Collective Worship policy
- We also ensure that information about RE is included on the school website.

Review

This policy will be reviewed regularly. Its effectiveness will be monitored by the RE Subject Leader and will be based upon discussions with other members of staff, observation of children's work and re-evaluation of teaching plans. The outcome of the review will influence the future school development plan.

Approval/review by governing body

Headteacher signed: K Pope

Date: 18.4.2024

Chair of Governors signed: J Pope

Date: 18.4.2024

Date of next review: April 2025

APPENDIX ONE – Statement of Entitlement

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-02/RE%20Statement%20of%20Entitlement%20for%20Church%20Schools.pdf>