

# Religious Education Policy



## Next review:

This policy has been approved by the School and Governing Body.

Headteacher: Lucy Wheatcroft

Date: March 2026

Chair of Governors: Sarah Bevan

Date: March 2026

## 1. Vision for RE

To appreciate and respect the way that religious beliefs shape life and behaviour. Develop the ability to question and then make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues. Enhance their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

## 2. Legal Requirements

All Saints Church of England Primary School has a legal requirement to provide Religious Education for all pupils from Reception to Year 6. Religious Education is a statutory subject.

The governors and headteacher are responsible for Religious Education and collective worship. They have chosen to adopt the 'The Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education' as published by Oxfordshire County Council 2023. The Oxfordshire Agreed Syllabus reflects the requirements in the Education Act 1996, the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and the Education Act 2002. These are that an Agreed Syllabus must reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, while taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain.

## 3. The Purpose and Aims of RE

The purpose of RE is to teach children about the religious and non-religious world-views that they will encounter in modern Britain and enable them to engage in meaningful and considered dialogue with those of all faiths and none. This is religious literacy.

Therefore, the aims of RE in our school are:

- To know about and understand Christianity as a diverse global living faith through the exploration of core beliefs using an approach that critically engages with biblical text.

- To gain knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews appreciating diversity, continuity and change within the religions and worldviews being studied.
- To engage with challenging questions of meaning and purpose raised by human existence and experience.
- To recognise the concept of religion and its continuing influence on Britain's cultural heritage and in the lives of individuals and societies in different times, cultures and places.
- To explore their own religious, spiritual and philosophical ways living, believing and thinking.

#### **4. Teaching, learning and assessment**

RE is taught using an enquiry based approach that is challenging and robust. Learning will be organised to encourage the development of attitudes such as self-awareness, respect for all, open-mindedness, appreciation and wonder, as well as providing opportunities to engage appropriately with Fundamental British Values. All faiths are treated respectfully, and opportunities will be made to engage in age-appropriate, meaningful discussion.

Where possible pupils will encounter believers and visit places of worship.

A variety of resources, styles, and techniques will be used as appropriate to enable all children to make progress in RE regardless of their starting points, ability or background.

Assessment procedures will be robust and in line with the assessment procedures and feedback policy of the school, meeting the requirements of the syllabus. Pupils will engage in a variety of activities which will also enable teachers to assess what they have learnt. At the end of each unit of work the children are assessed and this is recorded on an electronic markbook using the headings 'emerging, expected, exceeding'. At the end of the school year a final summative assessment is made using the data from the markbooks to give a final overall assessment for RE. This is recorded as emerging, expected or mastering.

Each year group have RE learning journeys, in the form of scrapbooks in which evidence of discussion, children's comments, photographs and written work is put. Children in Years 3 to 6 have individual RE books in which written work is done.

#### **5. The RE Curriculum**

All Saints CE Primary School follows the Oxford Diocesan Scheme of work. For each Year group (1-6) there are 6 units of work that are based on big questions. Each unit plan follows an 'Engage, Enquire and Explore, Evaluate and Reflect and Communicate' model.

##### *Key Stage One*

Throughout KS1 pupils study mainly Christianity and some aspects of Judaism.

##### *Key Stage Two*

Throughout KS2 pupils study Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and worldviews

See the long term pla for further details.

### *RE in the EYFS*

As the 1988 Education Reform Act clearly states, all registered pupils in maintained schools have an entitlement to Religious Education and thus it must be taught to Reception classes. However, the way learning here is structured is through the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum and uses the Understanding Curriculum resource. Teachers should use the Early Learning Goals as the basis of their assessment and planning.

In planning and guiding children's activities for RE in Reception classes, as with for all learning in the EYFS, practitioners must reflect on the different ways that children learn and reflect these in their practice. Three characteristics of effective teaching and learning are: playing and exploring, active learning and creating and thinking critically.

### **6. Time Allocation to RE**

At All Saints RE is given a minimum of 5% of curriculum time.

This could be planned as a weekly lesson or focused days each term.

### **7. The role of the RE Co-ordinator**

The key role of the RE co-ordinator at All Saints school is to be responsible throughout the school for general advice and guidance in the subject of RE. This is achieved through;

- advise on appropriate classroom activities and teaching materials,
- monitoring the standard of teaching and learning taking place in RE,
- leading the staff on the production of policies and scheme of work,
- monitoring planning,
- lead staff in evaluating and improving the quality of teaching and learning in RE,
- tracking progression in RE
- auditing resources and seeking additional resources where necessary,
- links to governing body.

### **8. Rights 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 also exercise their right to withdraw from teaching the subject.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from RE on the grounds that they wish to provide their own RE. This provision will be the parents' responsibility. This right of withdrawal exists for all pupils in all types of school, including schools with and without a religious designation.

Parents also have the right to withdraw their child from part of RE and can do so without giving any explanation.

When a request to withdraw is received by a school, the request should be granted without delay.