

St. George's CE Primary School



Religious Education POLICY

Reviewed: Sept 2024

Date of next review: Sept 2025

St George's CE – Religious Education policy

St George's Church of England Primary School

Religious Education Policy

At St George's CE Church School, our aim for Religious Education is to provide a rigorous academic curriculum that is ambitious, challenging, enriching and inclusive. We believe that RE plays a crucial role in unlocking the spiritual and moral potential in every one of our children enabling them to flourish as a child of God.

Our school vision and ethos

- Our school will be a happy, welcoming and inclusive place, where everyone is treated equally and expectations are high.
- We will provide a safe, caring and stimulating environment in which every individual is cared for spiritually, morally, intellectually, physically, socially and emotionally.
- We will combine high standards with a broad, balanced and rich curriculum which encourages creativity and inspires a commitment to lifelong learning.
- We will focus our teaching and learning on the needs, abilities and enthusiasms of individual pupils, providing a tailored approach to supporting pupils with additional needs and giving extra support to those pupils that need it most.
- We will work in partnership with parents and stakeholders to place our school at the heart of the community it serves.
- We will build on our strengths and drive our own improvement, setting ambitious targets and recognising that, for the sake of our pupils, we can always do better.

Our school vision of COURAGE

(written by pupils, staff and governors and updated September 2020)

'Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.'
Joshua 1.9

By the time our children leave us, we want them to show or have experienced the following attributes:

Communicate
Opportunity
Understanding
Respect
Achievement
Growth
Enjoyment

Statement of Intent Principal Aim as stated in the Agreed Syllabus:

The principal aim of RE is to engage pupils in a systematic enquiry into significant human questions which religion and worldviews address, so that they can develop the understanding and skills needed to appreciate and appraise varied responses to these questions, as well as developing responses of their own.

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The curriculum for RE aims to ensure that all pupils:

1. Know about and understand a range of religions and worldviews, so that they can:
 - Describe, explain and analyse beliefs and practices, recognising the diversity which exists within and between communities and amongst individuals.
 - Identify, investigate and respond to questions posed, and responses, offered by some of the sources of wisdom found in religions and worldviews
 - Appreciate and appraise the nature, significance and impact of different ways of life and ways of expressing meaning.
2. Express ideas and insights about the nature, significance and impact of religions and worldviews, so they can:
 - Explain reasonably their ideas about how beliefs, practices and forms of expression influence individuals and communities
 - Express with increasing discernment their personal reflections and critical responses to questions and teachings about identity, diversity, meaning and value, including ethical issues. • Appreciate and appraise varied dimensions of religion.
3. Gain and deploy the skills needed to engage seriously with religions and worldviews, so that they can:
 - Find out about and investigate key concepts and questions of belonging, meaning, purpose and truth, responding creatively
 - Enquire into what enables different individuals and communities to live together respectfully for the wellbeing of all
 - Articulate beliefs, values and commitments clearly in order to explain why they may be important in their own and other people's lives. RE enables pupils to achieve this principal aim because it:
 - Provokes challenging questions about the meaning and purpose of life, beliefs, the self, and issues of right and wrong, commitment and belonging. It develops pupils' knowledge and understanding of Christianity, other principal religions, and religious traditions that examine these questions, fostering personal reflection and spiritual development.
 - Not attempt to convert pupils to a particular faith.
 - Encourage pupils to explore their own beliefs (religious or non-religious), in the light of what they learn, as they examine issues of religious belief and faith and how these impact on personal, institutional and social ethics; and to express their responses.
 - Enable pupils to build their sense of identity and belonging, which helps them flourish within their communities and as citizens in a diverse society.
 - Teach pupils to develop respect for others, including people with different faiths and beliefs, and help to challenge prejudice.
 - Prompt pupils to consider their responsibilities to themselves and to others, and to explore how they might contribute to their communities and to wider society. It encourages empathy, generosity and compassion.
 - Develop a sense of awe, wonder and mystery.
 - Nurture children's own spiritual development
 - 4. Visit different places of worship throughout their time at St. George's Primary School

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:

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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.

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'. The Governors, in accordance with the Executive Head Teacher, have decided to adopt the Derbyshire and Derby City Agreed Syllabus supported by the Understanding Christianity Resource. St George's CE Primary School is a Church of England Academy therefore Religious Education is provided in line with the funding agreement and the academy follows the Derbyshire and Derby City Agreed Syllabus supported by the Understanding Christianity Resource

Provision RE stands as an academic subject in line with other such subjects within the school and is treated as such. It is taught in accordance with the school's teaching and learning policies. We use a number of strategies to enable us to cover all styles of learning.

These include:

- Exploiting cross-curricular links wherever possible, which is made clear on RE and topic-based planning
- Links are made with creative arts such as drama, music, art and literacy
- Good use is made of ICT to develop learning in RE
- A mix of whole-class, group and individual approaches
- Mixed ability grouping where appropriate
- Using St George's Church as a resource

Wherever possible, we use first-hand experience as a stimulus for learning. We encourage children to question the stories to deepen their own understanding of the concept being studied. We encourage children to form opinions through discussion and debate.

RE is generally taught as a discrete subject although meaningful links are encouraged with other subjects. This is taught weekly (1 hour) and we have RE days to enable the best learning for our pupils. We have an enquiry led approach to the teaching of RE and the units are taught through a series of key questions. These will be included on the cover page of each unit along with key vocabulary and concepts the children will need to know. The Understanding Christianity resource and Natre RE today is used to accompany the Derbyshire Agreed Syllabus.

