



# Christ Church CE Primary School

'Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it.' Proverbs 22:6

## RE Policy

As a church school, Christ Church CE Primary School is committed to Religious Education.

'We value all children as unique 'Children of God' and welcome them into our safe, loving and supportive Christ Church family. We endeavour to use nurture to encourage individuals to flourish and aspire to reach their God given potential. We rejoice in our rich diversity and our broad, balanced curriculum provides opportunities for all to achieve excellence, open minds and inspire dreams both now and the future'.

### Rationale for RE at Christ Church CE Primary School

Religious Education (RE) plays an important role in defining the school's distinctive Christian character. The SIAMS schedule 2018 (Strand 7) makes it clear that RE should reflect the school's Christian vision. The subject is regarded as a core subject within the school's curriculum. It has a vital role in developing religious literacy and deepening pupils understanding of Christianity, in all its forms, and fostering appreciation and understanding of other faith traditions. RE is non-confessional and should be treated as an academic subject in its own right.

The Church of England document, '**Making a difference? A review of Religious Education in Church of England schools 2014**' recommends that the RE curriculum in all schools should,

*".....ensure it provides a more coherent, progressive and challenging approach to the teaching of Christianity within the context of the wider exploration of the diversity of religion and belief in the modern world"*

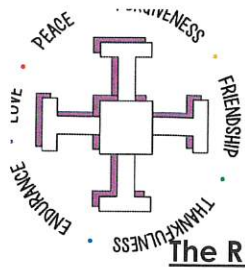
*".....explore ways of extending pupils' ability to think theologically and engage in theological enquiry as part of their learning in RE"*

### RE Statement of Entitlement

RE teaching at Christ Church CE will be in line with the recommendations of the **Statement of Entitlement for Church Schools**, published by the Church of England Education Office (2018)

Christianity will, therefore, be no less than two thirds of RE curriculum time. The teaching of Christianity is core to the teaching of RE at Christ Church CE. However, as a Church school we also have a duty to foster an accurate and increasing understanding of world religions and worldviews. As a result, pupils will gain greater insight into the world in which they are growing up. They will also learn to appreciate the faith of others and develop a deeper understanding of their own ideas and beliefs. These outcomes must contribute to harmonious relationships within and between communities, promoting social inclusion and combating prejudice and discrimination.

**Achieving excellence, opening minds, inspiring dreams, creating futures**



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### **The RE curriculum**

RE teaching also follows the legal requirements of the **Education Reform Act (1988)**, which places RE as part of the basic curriculum; a statutory subject which is an entitlement for all pupils.

Christ Church CE bases its RE provision on the Walsall Locally Agreed Syllabus. In addition, the school uses the Lichfield Diocesan RE Guidelines, Understanding Christianity resources and other appropriate materials to enhance teaching and learning.

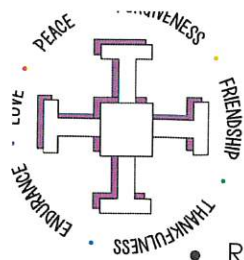
At least 5% of curriculum time will be dedicated to meeting explicitly RE objectives, although the subject may be taught across the curriculum when appropriate. Within this teaching allocation, at least two thirds of subject content will be allocated to an exploration of the Christian faith, and the concepts, beliefs, teachings and practices that lie at its heart.

### **The aims of Religious Education in our school are:**

- To help pupils to know about and understand Christianity as a living world faith through the exploration of core theological concepts.
- To help pupils consider the impact and connection that Christianity has on the lives of people worldwide.
- To enable all pupils to develop knowledge and understanding of other major world religions and world views, and their impact on society and culture.
- To give pupils a safe and supportive space to critically reflect on their own religious, spiritual and/or philosophical convictions.
- To help pupils to develop knowledge and skills in making sense of religious texts and teachings and understanding their impact on the lives of believers.
- To develop pupils' abilities to connect, reflect upon, evaluate and apply their learning to their own growing understanding of religion and belief, of themselves, the community and the wider world.
- To develop an understanding of religious faith as the search for and expression of truth, and so to consider important human questions, values and concerns.
- To nurture understanding, respect and open-mindedness and inspire lifelong engagement with the study of religions and beliefs.

### **The outcomes for pupils at the end of their time in our school are that they are able to:**

- Compare and contrast the key beliefs and practices of the religions studied and show how they are connected to believers' lives
- Describe different aspects of belonging to a religion – symbol, story, festival, belief, faith in action, ritual, worship
- Express religious beliefs and ideas with the appropriate language, vocabulary and terminology and describe what they mean
- Ask questions sensitively about the lives of believers and suggest appropriate answers



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- Reflect on the decisions people make – including believers – and suggest possible outcomes
- Compare their own experience and identity with others – including believers
- Reflect and empathise with the big questions of life, suggesting some answers / insights
- Be confident to explore their own spirituality, open their own minds and search for truth
- Value the religious journey of faith
- Develop pupils' ability to interpret and appreciate religious imagery and expression

## **Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC)**

In addition, the subject contributes to other areas of education and human experience and plays an important part of the wider programme of spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development.

<b>Spiritual</b>	Widening pupils' vision of themselves and their own experience, within the context of a growing awareness and understanding of God.
<b>Moral</b>	Helping each pupil develop their own informed values.
<b>Social</b>	Helping pupils understand some major forces shaping the values of our society.
<b>Cultural</b>	Aiding pupils in exploring aspects of their own cultural heritage, and developing positive attitudes towards diversity.

Additional links will be found across the curriculum particularly with **Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE)** and **British values**. RE can also make a positive contribution to enhancing creativity and enjoyment, and ensures the well-being of all pupils so that they feel a sense of peace. Christ Church CE encourages all pupils to flourish in all areas and opportunities for cross-curricular work is sought regularly, in order to open minds further and inspire.

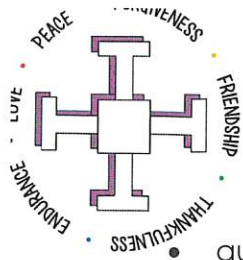
## **The management of RE**

RE is given equal status with other core subjects in staffing, responsibility and resourcing. Pupil achievement in RE should equal or be better than comparable subjects. Teachers should share effective practice and engage in professional development (SIAMS 2018).

As a church school, we recognise that it should be a priority to build up staff expertise in RE.

### **The RE Curriculum leader is responsible for:**

- producing a scheme of work for the school
- supporting colleagues in the detailed planning and delivery of RE provision
- ensuring Religious Education has status within the school
- keeping in touch with subject developments and disseminating information as appropriate



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- auditing and recording current resources, supplementing resource provision when money is available and disseminating this information to staff
- undertaking personal development and subject training and ensuring provision for staff INSET
- monitoring RE provision, practice and outcomes
- ensuring rigorous systems of assessment are in place (SIAMS 2018) and are in line with the Local Agreed Syllabus
- creating the RE Development Plan and ensuring its regular review
- accountability for RE standards in the school
- meet with member of the Diocesan RE advisory team when possible

## **Assessment in RE**

Class teachers are responsible for monitoring the progress of pupils within their classes. Pupils will be assessed against the key objectives and end of Key Stage Expectations. Specific assessment tasks may be planned for so that pupil views and knowledge can be judged through discussion or written feedback.

The RE Curriculum leader will monitor overall standards across the school.

## **Right to withdrawal**

At Christ Church CE Primary School, we wish to be an inclusive community but recognise that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from religious education or collective worship on the grounds of conscience, without giving a reason. Parents wishing to exercise this right are asked to write to the head teacher, who will then invite the parents into school to discuss their concerns, clarify the nature of the RE and worship provided by the school, and set out the options open to the parents as set out in education law.

However, the right of withdrawal does not extend to other areas of the curriculum when, as may happen on occasion, spontaneous questions on religious matters are raised by pupils or there are issues related to religion that arise in other subjects.

Where a pupil is withdrawn from RE and do not take part in alternative religious education, they will be supervised by an appropriate member of staff whilst doing work set by their parents which will seek to further their knowledge and understanding of their parents beliefs and values.

Signed:

Date: September 2022

Reviewed: February 2024

Next Review: February 2026