

Date	Minute number	Amendment	Signed



‘Learning and Growing Together’

Religious Education Policy

Religious education provides rich opportunities for our children to learn about things that matter in the lives of many people in the local area and the wider world. Religious education allows our children to study beliefs, teachings and ways of living so that they can explore a range of responses to questions of identity, meaning, purpose, values and commitments thus reflecting upon their own ideas and values.

Our Religious Education is taught through our key core values and vision of our school;

Learning;

we develop our wisdom, knowledge and skills

Growing;

in our character development, hope, aspiration, resilience and social action

Together;

so our community can live well together, showing dignity and respect.

We hope that through our RE teaching our children will begin their journey into recognising respect and diversity.

The Agreed Syllabus

We follow the Agreed Syllabus for RE 2025-2030.

The principal aim of RE is “to enable children to participate in an ongoing search for wisdom, through exploring questions raised by human experience and answers offered by the religions and beliefs of the people of Derbyshire and the wider community, so as to promote their personal development.”

The RE in the agreed syllabus;

- Provokes challenging questions

- Develops children's knowledge and understanding of World religions
- Offers opportunities for personal reflection and spiritual development.
- Encourages children to learn from different religions and beliefs.
- Challenges children to reflect, analyse, interpret and evaluate.
- Encourages children to develop their sense of identity and belonging.
- Enables children to flourish within their communities.
- Enables children to develop respect for and sensitivity to others.

We have due regard for the National Society Statement of Entitlement of Religious Education for Church of England Schools (January 2026).

Curriculum Time for RE

As a voluntary controlled (VC) school we have a statutory duty to deliver religious education. Parents may withdraw their children from RE Lessons and the school has a duty to supervise them though not to provide additional teaching or to incur extra cost.

4-5 year olds- 36 hours of RE, integrated into learning e.g. part of personal social and emotional development and understanding of the world

5-7 year olds- 36 hours of tuition per year

7-11 year olds- 45 hours of tuition per year

We do not class RE as collective worship, it is distinct, although links may be made within topics and themes. Christianity is taught in each key stage. The purpose of RE is to enable children to be ready to live in the wider world: the religion, the nation, the global community. As a school we promote diversity.

The contribution of RE to the wider school aims and ethos

RE plays a significant role in the personal development of our children, we foster respect, tolerance and consideration of people's beliefs, promoting social cohesion. RE also plays an important part in promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils.

At school we encourage

- Self-understanding,
- Respect for all, open mindedness
- Curiosity and wonder
- Commitment
- Fairness

- Enquiry

We want our children to;

- Investigate, interpret, analyse
- Reflect, evaluate,
- Empathise
- Synthesise
- Apply, express thoughts

Assessment, achievement and outcomes

In RE we assess using the Hexagon Assessment model each half term. Following a planned piece of teaching, members of staff assess against the knowledge and understanding taught.

How do we teach RE:

Programme of Study Our Overview of RE and the Programmes of Study can be found on our school website under the Curriculum Tab. We use Understanding Christianity and Understanding Islam to compliment the Derbyshire Agreed Syllabus.

Section 78 (1) of the 2002 Education Act states that all pupils should follow a balanced and broadly-based curriculum which 'promotes the spiritual, moral, social, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils and of society, and prepares pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life'.

Learning about and from religions and beliefs, through the distinct knowledge, understanding and skills contained in RE within a broad-based curriculum, is essential to achieving these aims.

Exploring the concepts of religion and belief and their roles in the spiritual, moral and cultural lives of people in a diverse society helps individuals develop moral awareness and social understanding.

We use a range of mediums to teach RE: discussion, communication, debates, reports, newspapers, paintings, art work, etc...

Personal development and well-being

R.E. plays an important role in preparing pupils for adult life, employment and lifelong learning. It helps children and young people become successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens. It gives them the knowledge, skills and understanding to discern and value truth and goodness, strengthening their capacity for making moral judgements and for evaluating different types of commitment to make positive and healthy choices. See also PSHCE policy.

Community cohesion

R.E. makes an important contribution to a school's duty to promote community cohesion. It provides a key context to develop young people's understanding and appreciation of diversity, to promote shared values and to challenge racism and discrimination. It provides a positive context within which the diversity of cultures, beliefs and values can be celebrated and explored. RE also provides opportunities to investigate patterns of diversity of religion and belief and forge links with different groups in the local area. R.E. subject matter gives particular opportunities to promote an ethos of respect for others, challenge stereotypes and build understanding of other cultures and beliefs. This contributes to promoting a positive and inclusive school ethos that champions democratic values and human rights. See also PSHE policy.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The RE Subject Lead leads RE through school. They monitor and evaluate through:

- Talking to the children and listening to their responses.
- Learning walks. (Governors and RE leader)
- Subject leader feedback to Governors.
- Sampling children's work and moderating levels of attainment and standards of RE.
- Monitoring the quality of planning.
- Monitoring the assessment of RE.

Equal opportunities

All children take part in RE. There is full inclusion across the school. If a child needs supporting as a result of their special educational need, then work will be differentiated accordingly. As mentioned earlier, some parents may withdraw from RE if they wish.

Inclusion

RE promotes respect for all. We aim to promote effective inclusion by building on the different experiences learners bring to RE. We ensure that all aspects of RE meet all pupils learning needs, including those with learning difficulties, those who are gifted and talented, girls and boys and for pupils whom English is an additional language. We ensure that RE is accessible to all children through adaptations to the curriculum.

Right of withdrawal

At St Oswald's C.E. Primary School we are an inclusive community but recognise that parents, of course, have the legal right to withdraw their children from religious education on the grounds of conscience.

This policy was updated July 2026