



Upper Arley C of E Primary School

POLICY FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS

With Guidance from the
Diocesan Board of Education

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APPROVED BY:	Local Governing Body	DATE:	23 rd November 2023
LAST REVIEWED ON:	23 rd November 2023		
NEXT REVIEW BY:	November 2024		
DOCUMENT NOTES:			



Diocesan Education Team



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
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ONE COMMUNITY, LEARNING AND GROWING TOGETHER, SHARING GOD'S LOVE

“I can do all this through Christ because he gives me strength”.

Philippians 4:13

Introduction

This policy has been written in the light of the [Church of England's Vision for Education](#) (Autumn 2016), [Valuing all God's Children](#) (Summer 2019) and through reflection on the 2018 [SIAMS Evaluation Schedule](#) for schools.

Name of School: Upper Arley C of E Primary School

Legal Position of Religious Education in School

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

Upper Arley 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 Worcestershire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2020 – 2025.

The Church of England's Statement of Entitlement

The Church of England's [Statement of Entitlement](#) (February 2019) outlines the aims and expectations for RE 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'.

SCHOOL STATEMENT ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE SCHOOL'S CHRISTIAN VISION

The School's Vision: One community, learning and growing together, sharing God's love.

"I can do all this through Christ because he gives me strength"
Philippians 4:13

God created everyone in his image, and we are all his children. His ultimate aim is for us to grow and succeed in everything we do as his children. It is through the strength that Christ gives that we are able to overcome all challenges and to achieve and flourish in all that we do.

Building on these themes, RE in this school contributes to the outworking of our vision by supporting an understanding of our vision.

One community, learning and growing together, sharing God's love

"I can do all this through Christ because he gives me strength"
Philippians 4:13

Religious Education Intent

The intent of Religious Education at Upper Arley C of E School is to fulfil our school vision and promote an environment where all children feel known, accepted, and valued as individuals, within a caring community, where our Christian faith affects not only what we teach, but also how we teach. We believe that it is fundamental for the children to belong to a safe and nurturing community, founded on strong Christian values where children will develop an array of skills that will enable them to make their own positive contribution to our global society.

AIMS AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Our aims for all the children in RE are:

To provoke challenging questions about the ultimate meaning of life, beliefs about God, the nature of reality and morality.

To develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of Christianity, other principal world religions, religious traditions and world-views, which offer answers to ultimate questions.

To encourage pupils to develop their sense of identity and belonging, in order to flourish within communities, as responsible citizens in society and global communities.

To teach pupils to develop respect for others and their beliefs and helps to challenge prejudice.

To 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 extolling our value of compassion.

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 Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development.

ORGANISATION AND TIME ALLOCATION

In accordance with the structure of Worcestershire Agreed Syllabus, we have agreed that, as a minimum:

- in the Foundation Stage pupils will encounter Christianity and other faiths, as part of their growing sense of self, their own community and their place within it. They 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 and Judaism or Islam - RE will be taught for at least for 36 hours over the year
- at Key Stage 2 pupils study Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Islam and also consider non-religious worldviews - RE will be taught for at least for 45 hours over the year.

PLANNING, RECORDING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Planning

- A half termly overview for worship is planned each term in conjunction with SLT, Collective Worship Leader, children and local clergy.
- Planning follows Roots and Fruits Values based Worship
- Collective Worship is planned using the church calendar and the calendars of other faiths.
- A clear liturgy is followed for each act of Collective Worship.
- For each act of Collective Worship, a Bible reading, song and prayer are carefully planned to link with the theme of worship.
- A time of reflection is planned as part of the worship.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- The effectiveness of Religious Education is monitored within our regular monitoring cycle.
- Religious Education is monitored by the Senior Leadership Team, Religious Education Lead, Governors and Pupil Committee.
- All monitoring for Religious Education is completed on a monitoring form which is kept by the Religious Education Lead and the Headteacher.
- At the end of each term we evaluate the successes of Religious Education with the pupils to then make improvements for the next term.

ASSESSMENT RECORDING, AND REPORTING

The Worcestershire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2020-2025 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.

As a school we track progress in RE through observation and monitoring of books, floor books and other evidence including pupil interviews.

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 Headteacher has ultimate responsibility for ensuring that the legal framework for RE is carried out and that the teaching of RE fits within the school's distinctively Christian vision. At Upper Arley C of E Primary School some of the responsibilities for RE may be delegated to other members of staff.

The **Subject Leader** is responsible for:

- ensuring personal subject knowledge and expertise are kept up-to-date by
- participating in Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for RE and share good practice
- attending RE clusters / hub meetings
- 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 being able to discuss impact and standards, all in conjunction with the Headteacher / Senior Leadership Team
- contributing to the SIAMS self-evaluation process

The **Headteacher and Governors** must ensure:

- RE has a high profile within the curriculum
 - that the legal framework for RE is upheld within the school
 - that 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
 - that 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
 - appropriate support is in place to ensure the effective provision of RE.
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- **The Pupil Worship Committee should:**
 - contribute to the monitoring and evaluation of Religious Education in the school

 - **Staff should:**
 - support the crucial role that Religious Education plays within the school
 - plan and lead Religious Education as required
 - provide opportunities for pupils to reflect on Religious Education at other times during the week.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

We ensure that all staff, including support staff, receive appropriate training and opportunities for professional development, both as individuals and as groups or teams. This support is provided by Diocese of Worcester Education Team. Training needs for staff may be identified through regular subject leader audits as well as performance management cycles. Additionally, support and guidance are provided for visitors and the clergy who may lead on an experience for Religious Education

Visitors

Visitors serve to enhance the experiences for our school community. They are invited to enhance Religious Education in a planned and informed way. Where a visitor is leading during a visit or a session, discussion with the visitor will ensure that the visitor is aware of the context of the school and will emphasise that the purpose of the visit is for the school community to learn from the richness of other perspectives.

Discussion and briefings include:

School	Pupils	Message
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the space available • agreement on the nature of participation • involvement of staff • normal routines • who is responsible for any behaviour management • relevant topical information in the school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • appropriate age-pitch • issues of inclusion • expected time and length • the involvement of children • audio-visual requirements and availability of equipment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • content of the presentation • any relevant pupil information e.g. religious or cultural diversity, which might require a change of wording or approach • context and relevance in the pattern of worship themes

THE RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL FROM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

At Upper Arley 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 RE 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.

Where parents make a request to withdraw their child(ren) from the teaching of RE, the school will, as a matter of courtesy, ensure that the parents are aware of the following:

- the learning objectives covered in RE so that parents can make an informed decision
- what supervision arrangements will be in place for child(ren).

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

REVIEW

This policy will be subject to the normal cycle of policy review and will be reviewed and ratified by the governing body every three years. Furthermore, there may be occasions where this policy is reviewed outside the normal review cycle, including but not limited to:

- a change in Agreed Syllabus
- a change in legal position framework for RE