

RE POLICY

Chadlington CE Primary School



Date: October 2024

Next review date: October 2025

School Policy Statement for Religious Education

In Chadlington C of E VA Primary School, RE plays an important role in expressing the Christian vision of the school. RE reflects the ethos and values that are held and promotes understanding of people of all faiths and none. RE contributes to the holistic development of our pupils from all backgrounds and traditions. Chadlington's vision, '*Let your light shine*', (Matthew 5:14-16) is a theologically rooted vision that is grounded in the Christian narrative of inclusivity and development of the 'whole' individual, who will be able to contribute fully to their school community, local community and to the wider world.

The Legal Position

Every maintained school in England must provide a basic curriculum (RE, Sex and Relationship Education and the National Curriculum). This includes provision for RE for all registered pupils at the school, except for those withdrawn by their parents (see paragraph below). The school, in accordance with its Trust Deed, therefore, provides religious education for all pupils registered at the school. Following advice from the Oxford Diocesan Board of Education, the governors decided that religious education in our school should be based upon the [Oxfordshire Agreed Syllabus](#) while also reflecting the requirements of the *Statement of Entitlement for Religious Education* published by the Education Office of the Church of England in February 2019. The statutory section 48 (SIAMS) inspection will evaluate RE and the way that it expresses the Christian vision of the school and look for evidence of progress and attainment. Religious education has the same status and importance as any other subject and, as such, the same high standards are applied to this as to other subjects.

Purpose and Aims of RE

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

Therefore, the aims of RE in our school are:

- To develop and broaden knowledge and understanding of Christianity and its impact on our community (locally, nationally, and globally).
- To gain and develop knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews appreciating diversity, continuity and change within religions and worldviews being studied.
- 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 develop a sense of respect for religious traditions, beliefs, and practices.
- To engage with challenging questions of meaning and purpose raised by human existence and experience. Developing a sense of awe, wonder and mystery.
- To explore their own religious, spiritual, and philosophical ways of living, believing and thinking linking to our vision of 'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:14 - 16.
- To develop British values and spiritual moral social and cultural development within the RE Curriculum.

Curriculum and Time Allocation

The RE curriculum at Chadlington C of E Primary School, has been approved by the governors. Christianity is taught in every year group, with key concepts revisited across a two-year topic cycle. At least 50% of RE time is devoted to Christianity. Other religions are covered according to the syllabus, e.g., Judaism in KS1, Hinduism & Sikhism/Islam and Humanism in KS2. We may draw on non-religious worldviews as appropriate to current issues and the pupils' own background, experience, and questions. Children will explore these faiths in relation to a number of key questions in each key stage.

Children in the Foundation stage have an entitlement to Religious Education and learning is structured through the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. Foundation Stage children have specific planned activities (for example linked to festivals, special places, my family and religious stories) as well as unplanned opportunities to develop children's knowledge and understanding of religious beliefs through circle times, pupil initiated learning and daily routines.

The total time for RE is between 5% and 10%, which is organised into dedicated blocks, using a challenging enquiry-based cross-curricular approach. This allows children to make meaningful links with their wider experiences and existing knowledge. The time dedicated to RE is separate from the time given to Collective Worship.

Teaching, Learning and Achievement

Learning is scaffolded 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 British and global values. All faiths are treated respectfully, and opportunities are made to engage in age appropriate, meaningful discussion. Where possible, pupils will encounter believers and visit places of worship.

To make religious education a living subject a variety of resources, styles, and techniques are used as appropriate to enable all children to make progress in RE regardless of their starting points, ability or background.

Our Interactive Learning Diary is used to support formative assessment and Progress and Curriculum Reviews are scheduled for summative assessment purposes. Assessment is used to inform planning, set appropriate levels of challenge, address gaps in learning and review the effectiveness of the RE curriculum.

In the Foundation Stage, Religious Education provides excellent opportunities for children to develop and practise their learning through role play, story, speaking and listening and developing and expressing their own views and opinions whilst listening to and learning from the views of others. Progress is measured against the Early Learning Goals.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Collaborative Development Team monitors teaching and learning in RE in accordance with school policy. The Headteacher and Foundation Governors ensure that adequate monitoring takes place and that the impact of such activity is assessed.

The right of Withdrawal

At Chadlington CE Primary School we aim to be an inclusive community but recognise that parents have the legal right (in accordance with Schedule 19 to the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) to withdraw their children from Religious Education provided they give written notification to the school. We ask for any parent considering this to contact the Headteacher to discuss any concerns or anxieties about the policy, provision, and practice of Religious Education at Chadlington CE Primary School. Teachers can also exercise their right to withdraw from teaching the subject. However, we hope that both parents and teachers would feel comfortable with the way in which RE is taught in our school.