

ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL



Religious Education Policy

Approved by:	Governing Board	Date: March 2025
Last reviewed on:	January 2024	
Next review due by:	March 2027	

As a Voluntary Aided School, the management of RE is a distinctive role of the Governors and Headteacher. RE plays a major part in promoting the Christian aims, values and ethos of our school:

Vision and Values

'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me' (Philippians 4:13)

At St. George's we aim to grow and nurture inquisitive, enthusiastic and courageous learners by using a rich, stimulating and inclusive curriculum. This engages and prepares our children for lifelong learning. We do this through the lens of our Christian values:

- **Sustainability** – we are a community that cares for God's creation.
The Lord God put the man in the garden of Eden to care for it and work it (Genesis 2:15)
- **Transformation** – we are continually growing as individuals.
We all show the Lord's glory, and we are being changed to be like him. This change in us brings more and more glory. And it comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit (2 Corinthians 3:18)
- **Generosity** – we are generous in our love and care for each other.
Love your neighbour as you love yourself (Mark 12:31)
- **Perseverance** – we always strive to do our best.
So let us run the race that is before us and never give up (Hebrews 12:1)
- **Stewardship** – we care for our gifts and resources.
God has shown you his grace in giving you different gifts. And you are like servants who are responsible for using God's gifts. So be good servants and use your gifts to serve each other (1 Peter 4:10)

Aims for RE

Religious Education at St. George's C of E Primary aims to encourage children to understand the nature of faith, belief and religious experience, with particular reference to the Christian faith. RE is seen at the heart of Christian distinctiveness of the school and central to school effectiveness. As such, RE is given the priority that it deserves as a core subject in the curriculum and aims to be a specialism of the school. It is intended that the RE provided will be of the highest quality, aiming for excellence in teaching and learning and developing strong religious literacy. The RE teaching and learning should be progressive, sequential, innovative, creative, exciting and engaging, with its relevance made clear for all.

Our policy aligns with Religious Education in Church of England Schools, A Statement of Entitlement, (The Church of England Education Office, 2019.) It is also based upon 'Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good,' Church of England Vision for Education, (The Church of England Education Office, 2016.)

We also have due regard for 'A Review of Religious Education in England' (The Religious Education Council of England and Wales, 2013;) 'Religious Education the Non-Statutory National Framework' (Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency, 2004), 'Religious Education in English Schools: Non-Statutory Guidance 2010' (Department for Children, Schools and Families.) and the Ofsted publication 'Research review series: religious education' (Ofsted, 2021).

The school aims to enable pupils to:

- develop a strong foundation of the Christian faith through knowledge and understanding by exploring aspects including The Bible, Old Testament characters, the life, teachings and actions of Jesus, Christian

festivals, creation, wisdom, saints, liturgy, the local Church, the Christian community, rites of passage, living out the faith and values rooted in Christianity;

- develop some knowledge and understanding of the principal world faiths and diverse worldviews, applying an understanding of religion to develop informed respect, empathy and sensitivity towards all people;
- explore beliefs through three 'lenses', the theological lens (believing), the philosophical lens (thinking) and the lens of human and social sciences (living);
- recognise that there are a number of different branches of Christianity who may share common beliefs but practise their faith in different ways;
- develop the ability to reflect on their own beliefs, values and experiences and communicate these;
- develop skills of critical analysis and evaluation and the promotion of understanding of people from different faith backgrounds and none and of diversity within faiths;
- flourish as they develop skills of enquiry, critical analysis, interpretation, evaluation, and reflection;
- grow and deepen their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development including an active promotion of equality, diversity and inclusion through the kaleidoscope of faith;
- apply religious literacy as they express and demonstrate an informed respect, empathy and sensitivity towards all people, building bridges of understanding leading to community cohesion;

The RE Syllabus (Teaching and Learning)

We are an inclusive school, and ensure that RE is appropriate for all pupils, whatever background they come from.

St. George's C of E Primary has elected to follow the Southwark Diocese Board of Education (SDBE) syllabus. This syllabus ensures the school's Christian distinctiveness is maintained, whilst providing a curriculum which enables students to learn about and from a variety of other principal world faiths.

St. George's C of E Primary aims to provide sufficient, dedicated, curriculum time to explicitly meet RE objectives. In accordance with The Church of England Education Office[s] Religious Education in Church of England Schools: Statement of Entitlement (2016) this time should be close to 10% but no less than 5%.

In order to meet these requirements, KS1 take part in formal RE lessons once per week for a duration of 1 hour and KS2 students take part in formal RE lessons each week of a duration of 1 hour and 30 minutes (this may be split between sessions as teachers see fit).

In the EYFS children receive a dedicated RE carpet session each week, focused activities and activities in their continuous provision to support their religious education.

To supplement this allocated time and encourage community cohesion the school also aims to hold a RE day bi-annually where the whole school participates in an exploration of a Christian faith concept.

Attainment Targets and Assessment in RE

In describing progress in RE, the Agreed Syllabus from the SDBE illustrates how pupils will develop increasing understanding through believing (theological), living (sociological) & thinking (philosophical) approaches to learning, reflected in end of key stage expectations and within units of work. Outcomes are assessed by pupils and teachers throughout and at the end of the unit. These are adapted according to ability. RE attainment is recorded 3 times per year on our data system. Pupils are assessed as below, secure or working at greater depth for their age.

Teachers use a range of evidence to make their judgements: pieces of work (this includes work completed in English or other relevant subjects), comments/reflections made during lessons, projects, photos and observations made by a member of staff.

RE attainment for each pupil is reported to their parents as part of the end of year school report.

Monitoring and Self-Evaluation

The Senior Leadership Team and RE coordinator use a range of methods to monitor standards and progress in RE, including work scrutinies, pupil questionnaires and lesson observations. Developments in RE will report to the governors as a whole at least yearly. This includes progress strengths and next steps as well as attainment for each year group. The RE governor visits the school to monitor standards and discuss next steps. The head of school will inform governors of developments in RE during meetings throughout the year.

Inclusion and the Right of Parental Withdrawal

Although legally parents have the option of withdrawing their children from the teaching of RE, it is expected that, by applying to a church school, parents understand the school's distinctive Christian character and recognise that RE is central to the life of the school and will therefore not feel it is necessary to withdraw their child from RE. Religious Education at St. George's is inclusive and seen as highly relevant for every pupil.

In order to preserve the distinctiveness of St. George's as a church school community, we encourage everyone to be involved in religious education and collective worship. Parents who have concerns about this should discuss them with the Chair of Governors and the Head of school before their children are admitted to the school.