

Religious Education Policy

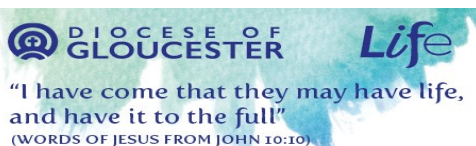
Review Cycle;	Annual
Responsible group:	Headteacher, RE Subject Leader and LGB
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Small steps to big dreams

Mark 4: 30-32

Vision

We aim to provide educational excellence inspired by the world around us. To develop curious, responsible and confident learners within a caring community, in partnership with our families, upholding our Christian Values.



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Written in partnership with SW Area Diocesan Advisors

Amendments made by Headteacher and R.E. Subject Leader

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Name of School: Clearwater C of E Primary Academy

Legal Position of Religious Education in School

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

Clearwater C of E Academy is a Voluntary Aided Church of England Academy therefore Religious Education is provided in line with the funding agreement and the academy follows the Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2017 – 2022.

The Church of England's Statement of Entitlement

The Church of England's *Statement of Entitlement* outlines the aims and expectations for Religious Education in Church of England Schools and guides this academy'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.*

Full details of this document can be found in Appendix One.

Religious Education and the School's Christian Vision

The Academy's Vision:

Small steps to big dreams

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

"The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed, the tiniest seed you can sow. But after that seed is planted, it grows into the largest plant in the garden, a plant so big that birds can build their nests in the shade of its branches"

Mark 4: 30-32

Vision

We aim to provide educational excellence inspired by the world around us. To develop curious, responsible and confident learners within a caring community, in partnership with our families, upholding our Christian Values.

Building on these themes, RE in this school contributes to the outworking of our vision by ensuring that the staff have high expectations of the children and give them opportunity to explore what people believe in the world around them and enable them to understand the difference this makes to how they live, so that pupils can gain the knowledge, understanding and skills over time needed to handle questions raised by religion and belief, reflecting on their own ideas and ways of living. The impact of our vision is that you will see children who enjoy finding out about the similarities and differences between their faith and the faiths of their friends and who use their strong Christian

foundation to decide how to behave. You will see children who have respectful positive relationships with one another who treat each other fairly, with compassion and understanding and enjoy one another's company.

Religious Education Intent

The intent of Religious Education at Clearwater C of E Academy Primary School is to

To develop respect and consideration for the beliefs, differences and ways of life of everyone involved in the school.

To enable children to explore and discuss faith and worship, working from a Christian foundation, in the context of a multi-faith society.

Academy 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 academy 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 SMSC development.

Organisation & Time Allocation

In accordance with the structure of Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus we have agreed that:

In the Foundation Stage pupils 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, Judaism and Islam. RE will be taught for at least for 36 hours over the year.

At Key Stage 2 pupils study Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism and also consider non-religious worldviews. RE will be taught for at least for 45 hours over the year.

In all phases this will be achieved through discrete weekly lessons and RE days.

Assessment/Recording & Reporting

The Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2017-2022 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. We have adopted the Gloucestershire Diocesan assessment guidance tools that can be found in Appendix Two. Class teachers complete the assessments at the end of each unit and they give a copy to the RE subject leader who collates the assessments and gives guidance if needed. The RE subject leader shares the information with the Headteacher at the end of each term.

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 the Academy

The **subject leader** is responsible for overseeing the teaching and learning of religious education in the academy. The role includes:

- Ensuring personal subject knowledge and expertise are kept up-to-date by participating in CPD for RE and share good practice
- 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 be able to discuss impact and standards
- Contributing to the SIAMS self-evaluation process particularly around Strand 7

The Head Teacher and Governors make sure:

- RE has a high profile within the curriculum
- 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
- 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

The Right of Withdrawal from Religious Education

At Clearwater C of E Primary Academy we wish to be an inclusive community but recognise that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from religious education 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.

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

Managing the Right of Withdrawal

The academy will ensure that parents who want to withdraw their children from RE are aware of the RE syllabus and that it is relevant to all pupils and respects their own personal beliefs.

- Parents should be made aware of its learning objectives and what is covered in the RE curriculum and should be given the opportunity to discuss this, if they wish.
- The academy may also wish to review such a request each year, in discussion with the parents.
- The use of the right to withdraw should be at the instigation of parents, and it should be made clear whether it is from the whole of the subject or specific parts of it. No reasons need be given.
- Parents have the right to choose whether or not to withdraw their child from RE without influence from the school, although a school should ensure that parents or carers are informed of this right and are aware of the educational objectives and content of the RE syllabus. In this way, parents can make an informed decision.
- Where parents have requested that their child is withdrawn, their right must be respected, and where RE is integrated in the curriculum, the school will need to discuss the arrangements with the parents or carers to explore how the child's withdrawal can be best accommodated.
- If pupils are withdrawn from RE, schools have a duty to supervise them, though not to provide additional teaching or to incur extra cost. Pupils will usually remain on school premises.
- Where a pupil has been withdrawn, the law provides for alternative arrangements to be made for RE of the kind the parent wants the pupil to receive. This RE could be provided at the school in question, or the pupil could be sent to another school where suitable RE is provided if this is reasonably convenient.
- If neither approach is practicable, outside arrangements can be made to provide the pupil with the kind of RE that the parent wants, and the pupil may be withdrawn from school for a reasonable period of time to allow them to attend this external RE.
- Outside arrangements for RE are allowed as long as the LA SACRE (VC schools) or diocese (VA schools) is satisfied that any interference with the pupil's attendance at school resulting from the withdrawal will affect only the start or end of a school session.

Links to other policies and documentation

This policy is to be read in conjunction with:-

- The Diocesan Guidance on RE
- SMSC and PSHE policies
- Collective Worship policy
- We also ensure that information about RE is included on the school website.

Review

This policy will be reviewed regularly. Its effectiveness will be monitored by the RE Subject Leader and will be based upon discussions with other members of staff, observation of children's work and re-evaluation of teaching plans. The outcome of the review will influence the future school development plan.

APPENDIX ONE – Statement of Entitlement

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-02/RE%20Statement%20of%20Entitlement%20for%20Church%20Schools.pdf>

Guidance Document

Section I – Assessment Tools

Proformas for end of unit relating to each strand

RE leader's overview document for end of year

RE Assessment: Making sense of Belief <i>Please use child's initials in all boxes</i>					
Class:			Teacher:		
Year Group/s:	Boys:	Girls:	Teacher's role e.g. class teacher/PPA/HLTA		
Pupil premium children:			SEND children:		
Looked after children:			Disadvantaged children:		
UNIT NAME					
Those pupils are working at age related are:	Secure – Pupils are able to... <i>Copy making sense of belief outcomes in focus</i>				
	'On Track' for Age Related Expectations:				
For some their ability to complete outcomes are:	Developing <i>Pupils are not yet able to complete all of the above.</i>		Exceeding <i>Pupils use their knowledge and understanding to complete all skills above and exceed the tasks asked of them.</i>		
			Evidence of excellence <i>Give examples of above</i>		
Contextual issues eg variety of teachers/ clashes with violin lessons etc					
Pupils who are of specific concern,					
Class Teacher response and next steps					
RE Co-ordinator/ leader response to this data and next steps to inform T&L					
Percentage of developing		Percentage 'On track'		Percentage at exceeding	

RE Assessment: Understanding the Impact					
Please use child's initials in all boxes					
Class:			Teacher:		
Year Group/s:	Boys:	Girls:	Teacher's role e.g. class teacher/PPA/HLTA		
Pupil premium children:			SEND children:		
Looked after children:			Disadvantaged children:		
UNIT NAME					
Those pupils are working at age related are:	Secure – Pupils are able to... Copy making sense of belief outcomes in focus				
	'On Track' for Age Related Expectations:				
For some their ability to complete outcomes are:	Developing Pupils are not yet able to complete all of the above		Exceeding Pupils use their knowledge and understanding to complete all skills above and exceed the tasks asked of them.		
			Evidence of excellence Give examples of above		
Contextual issues eg variety of teachers/ clashes with violin lessons etc					
Pupils who are of specific concern,					
Class Teacher response and next steps					
RE Co-ordinator/ leader response to this data and next steps to inform T&L					
Percentage of developing		Percentage 'On track'		Percentage at excellent	

RE Assessment: Making Connections <i>Please use child's initials in all boxes</i>					
Class:			Teacher:		
Year Group/s:	Boys:	Girls:	Teacher's role e.g. class teacher/PPA/HLTA		
Pupil premium children:			SEND children:		
Looked after children:			Disadvantaged children:		
UNIT NAME					
Those pupils are working at age related are:	Secure – Pupils are able to... Copy making sense of belief outcomes in focus				
	'On Track' for Age Related Expectations:				
For some their ability to complete outcomes are:	Developing Pupils are not yet able to complete all of the above		Exceeding Pupils use their knowledge and understanding to complete all skills above and exceed the tasks asked of them.		
			Evidence of excellence Give examples of above		
Contextual issues eg variety of teachers/ clashes with violin lessons etc					
Pupils who are of specific concern,					
Class Teacher response and next steps					
RE Co-ordinator/ leader response to this data and next steps to inform T&L					
Percentage of developing		Percentage 'On track'		Percentage exceeding	

RE Subject Leader End of Year Summary			
Class	% on track	% developing	% exceeding
Making sense of Belief			
Understanding Impact			
Making Connections			
OVERALL			
Vulnerable group 1 (bespoke to schools' context)			
Comments:			
Vulnerable Group 2			
Comments			
Vulnerable Group 3			
Comments			
Pupil Voice Quotes on RE			
Examples of excellence			

To be read in conjunction with school development plan, SEF and action plan for RE