

# Policy for Religious Education



**March 2023**



"I have come that they may have life,  
and have it to the full"

(WORDS OF JESUS FROM JOHN 10:10)

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Name of School: Dursley 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'.

Dursley C of E Primary is a Church of England Voluntary Controlled Academy and therefore follows the Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2017 – 2022 /South Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2016-2021

## 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 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.*

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

## Religious Education and the School's Christian Vision

**The School's Vision:**

**School's Vision:**

**'Together, we shine brightly because together, we make a difference.'**  
**Salt and Light – Matthew 5:16**

<sup>14</sup> **"You are the light of the world.** A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

*At Dursley C of E Primary Academy we are passionate about valuing and nurturing every individual. Our inclusive, aspirational and inspiring curriculum enables the entire school community to flourish. We build supportive, trusting relationships rooted in mutual respect, creating happy, confident and active global citizens. **Together, we shine brightly because together, we make a difference.***

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 about how we can make a difference in our community and our world and therefore, learning to respect and understand all world points will help this.

### **Religious Education Intent**

The intent of Religious Education at Dursley C of E Primary Academy is to explore what people believe; why they believe this; and what difference this makes to how they live. This is so that pupils can gain the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to handle questions raised by religion and belief, reflecting on their own ideas and ways of living. This aim falls into the following three strands:

- 1: Making sense of a range of religious and non-religious beliefs
- 2: Making Connections between religious and non-religious beliefs, concepts, practices and ideas studied
- 3: Understanding the Impact and significance of religious and non-religious beliefs

### **School Approach to Religious Education**

In line with all church schools, this academy 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 SMSC development

### **Organisation & Time Allocation**

See Appendix 3: Dursley C of E Primary Academy two year rolling programme of study for RE.

In accordance with the structure of Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus/South 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 focussing on 4 of the 6 units.

At Key Stage 1 pupils study Christianity, Judaism and Islam. RE will be taught for at least for 36 hours over the year. This is done as discreet weekly lessons on a 2 year rolling program.

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. This will be taught as discreet weekly lessons on a 2 year rolling program.

### **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.

At Dursley C of E Primary Academy, we assess children's understanding through differentiated questioning on a weekly basis. This then leads to termly assessments using the Diocesan Assessment guidance tools that can be found in Appendix Two. At the end of each unit, the teacher will focus on one of the 3 core strands to assess: Making Connections, Understanding the Impact or Making Sense of Beliefs. Each strand should be assessed at least once a year. All data is sent to the subject leader who collates the data and analyses it for each year group.

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 **subject leader** is responsible for overseeing the teaching and learning of religious education in the school. 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 Dursley 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 head teacher to discuss any concerns and anxieties about the policy, provision and practice of religious education at our school.

## Managing the Right of Withdrawal

The school 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 school 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 (or pupils themselves if they are aged 18 or over), 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.

### Approval/review by governing body

**Headteacher signed:** **Date:** **May 2023**

**Chair of Governors signed:** **Date:** **May 2023**

**Date of next review:** **Date:** **May 2024**

**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

*Please use child's initials in all boxes*

<b>Class:</b>		<b>Teacher:</b>			
<b>Year Group/s:</b>	<b>Boys:</b>	<b>Girls:</b>	<b>Teacher's role eg class teacher/PPA/HLTA</b>		
<b>Pupil premium children:</b>			<b>SEND children:</b>		
<b>Looked after children:</b>			<b>Disadvantaged children:</b>		
<b>UNIT NAME</b>					
Those pupils are working at age related are:	<b>Secure – Pupils are able to...</b> Copy making sense of belief outcomes in focus				
	<b>'On Track' for Age Related Expectations:</b>				
For some their ability to complete outcomes are:	<b>Developing</b> Pupils are not yet able to complete all of the above.		<b>Exceeding</b> Pupils use their knowledge and understanding to complete all skills above and exceed the tasks asked of them.		
			<b>Evidence of excellence</b> 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 exceeding	

## RE Assessment: Understanding the Impact

*Please use child's initials in all boxes*

<b>Class:</b>		<b>Teacher:</b>			
<b>Year Group/s:</b>	<b>Boys:</b>	<b>Girls:</b>	<b>Teacher's role eg class teacher/PPA/HLTA</b>		
<b>Pupil premium children:</b>			<b>SEND children:</b>		
<b>Looked after children:</b>			<b>Disadvantaged children:</b>		
<b>UNIT NAME</b>					
Those pupils are working at age related are:	<b>Secure – Pupils are able to...</b> <i>Copy making sense of belief outcomes in focus</i>				
	<b>'On Track' for Age Related Expectations:</b>				
For some their ability to complete outcomes are:	<b>Developing</b> <i>Pupils are not yet able to complete all of the above</i>		<b>Exceeding</b> <i>Pupils use their knowledge and understanding to complete all skills above and exceed the tasks asked of them.</i>		
			<b>Evidence of excellence</b> <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 excellent	

## RE Assessment: Making Connections

*Please use child's initials in all boxes*

<b>Class:</b>		<b>Teacher:</b>			
<b>Year Group/s:</b>	<b>Boys:</b>	<b>Girls:</b>	<b>Teacher's role eg class teacher/PPA/HLTA</b>		
<b>Pupil premium children:</b>			<b>SEND children:</b>		
<b>Looked after children:</b>			<b>Disadvantaged children:</b>		
<b>UNIT NAME</b>					
Those pupils are working at age related are:	<b>Secure – Pupils are able to... Copy making sense of belief outcomes in focus</b>				
	<b>'On Track' for Age Related Expectations:</b>				
For some their ability to complete outcomes are:	<b>Developing</b> Pupils are not yet able to complete all of the above		<b>Exceeding</b> Pupils use their knowledge and understanding to complete all skills above and exceed the tasks asked of them.		
			<b>Evidence of excellence</b> 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

<b>Class</b>	<b>% on track</b>	<b>% developing</b>	<b>% exceeding</b>
<b>Making sense of Belief</b>			
<b>Understanding Impact</b>			
<b>Making Connections</b>			
<b>OVERALL</b>			
<b>Vulnerable group 1</b> (bespoke to schools' context)			
<b>Comments:</b>			
<b>Vulnerable Group 2</b>			
<b>Comments</b>			
<b>Vulnerable Group 3</b>			
<b>Comments</b>			
<b>Pupil Voice Quotes on RE</b>			
<b>Examples of excellence</b>			

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