



# Religious Education and Worldviews Policy

## Our Vision

*At Royston St John Baptist CE Primary School, we strive to create a secure and happy environment for all. We are a Christian community who delights in learning, inspires high aspirations and broadens experiences. We learn to love our neighbours as ourselves and stand up for what we believe is right. Through our values and actions, we bring hope into our community and to the future of our world.*

## Rationale & Context

Religious Education (RE) plays an important role in defining the school's distinctive Christian character. 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 educate for dignity and respect, encouraging all to live well together (The Church of England Statement of Entitlement, 2019).

At Royston St John Baptist CE Primary School, we recognise that spiritual development lies at the heart of the curriculum. Alongside the teaching of Christianity in the breadth of its Anglican and other denominational forms, and in the variety of worldwide forms, church schools have a duty to foster an accurate and increasing understanding of the world religious and world views. As a result, we aim to provide pupils with opportunities and tools to gain a greater insight into the world in which they are growing up in. This will also allow them to appreciate the faith of others and develop a deeper understanding of their own beliefs and practices. As a result, we aim to promote harmonious relationships within and between communities, promoting social inclusion and combating prejudice.

RE teaching also follows the legal requirements of the Education Reform Act (1998), which places RE as part of the curriculum, with equal status alongside other core subjects in staffing, responsibility, and resourcing, which is an entitlement for all pupils. The school bases its RE provision on the Leeds and York Agreed Syllabus. In addition, the school uses Understanding Christianity to enhance teaching. As a church school, we recognise that it should be priority to build up staff expertise in RE.

At least 5% of curriculum time will be dedicated to meeting explicitly RE objectives, although the subject may be taught across the curriculum when appropriate. This does not include Collective Worship time, as this is a separate requirement.

## Aims

RE at Royston St John Baptist CE Primary will be provided in line with the legal requirements. The are that:

- the basic curriculum will include provision for religious education for all pupils on the school roll;
- the content of RE shall reflect the fact that religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, while taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religious traditions represented in Great Britain;
- the RE which is provided shall be in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus for Leeds.

Within the framework of the law and the Agreed Syllabus, the aims of RE at Royston St John Baptist CE Primary School are for pupils to:

- acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity, and other principal religions represented in the United Kingdom;
- develop an understanding of the influence of religious and non-religious worldviews, values and traditions on individuals, communities, societies and cultures, locally, national and globally;
- develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues, with reference to the teachings and diversity within the religious and non-religious worldviews represented in the United Kingdom;
- enhance their spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development by
  - developing awareness of the fundamental questions of life raised by human experiences, and of how religious teachings and other beliefs can relate to them;
  - responding to such questions with reference to the teachings and practices of religions and worldviews relating to their own understanding and experience;
  - reflecting their own beliefs, values and experiences in the light of their study;
- develop positive attitudes of respect towards other people who hold views and beliefs different from their own, and towards living in a society of diverse religions and worldviews.
- allow pupils to learn from, and about, religion, not to persuade pupils to accept or reject a particular religious tradition;

## Time Allocation

It is recommended that RE is taught for a minimum of 36 hours per year on Key Stage One, and 45 hours per year in Key Stage Two.

The minimum time allocated for teaching RE at Royston St John Baptist CE Primary School is:

EYFS	Planned within the EYFS framework
KS1	1 hours
KS2	1 hours 15 minutes

RE curriculum time does not include assembly or collective worship, even when the assembly provides a starting point for curricular work. Christmas or Easter production rehearsals and performances are not RE.

### **Scheme of Work**

A detailed scheme of work is available for teachers and other interested people alongside this policy. It has been written in the light of Leeds and York Agreed Syllabus.

EYFS	Themes emerging from the EYFS Framework
Year 1	Christianity and Judaism
Year 2	Christianity and Islam
Year 3	Christianity and Hinduism
Year 4	Christianity and Sikhism
Year 5	Christianity and Islam
Year 6	Christianity and Islam

### **Teaching and Learning Strategies**

Our policy is to aim to ensure the use of RE in art, drama, thinking skills, speaking and listening activities, visits, posters, photographs, videos, ICT use, display work and other learning strategies. Cross curricular work is encouraged, in line with the whole school policy on teaching and learning. We recognise the importance of teaching to the Agreed Syllabus in a creative, knowledge-rich, broad and balanced way.

### **Resources**

We have a wide range of resources to support our teaching RE that we continue to develop.

Our school has invested in a range of books, religious artefacts, and other resources to support the teaching and learning in our school. We maintain an RE story area in the library which can be used across the ages range as well.

### **Visits and Visitors**

We are able to visit places of worship in the immediate vicinity of the school, where faith leaders and other members of the community are willing to meet children and be involved in the teaching of RE. We aim to use this valuable resource for all classes. All pupils have the opportunity to visit a place of worship.

The RE subject leader supports class teachers to organise any educational visits to aid and develop the teaching of religion and worldviews to give our children a broad and balanced understanding of the beliefs of those within our communities.

### **Matching Work to Pupils' Needs**

Our whole school policy regarding pupils with special educational needs and differentiation, applies to RE. Teacher should be alert to the fact that some children have special and deep experience of a religion through family practice. This of course may not relate to their general educational ability.

### **Assessment**

We report on pupils' progress and attainment in RE to parents, as required by law. The and York Agreed Syllabus provides descriptions of progress and attainment, which the school has agreed to use as a basis for reporting at the end of each key stage. We make specific, individual, accurate comments on each child's progress in RE in annual reports, based on regular monitoring of work and transfer this information to new schools when pupils leave us.]

### **Leadership and Monitoring**

#### **Governor's Role**

The Religious Education Policy is shared with the Governing Body, as is the school development plan for RE.

The school has a named Governor for RE & Worldviews and Collective Worship:

#### **Leader's Role**

The RE subject leader and senior leaders in school will regularly monitor RE within the school through analysis of assessment data, class observations, scrutiny of books and talking to children each year. Any issues will be addressed through on-going CPD.

The Subject Leader for RE & Worldviews will:

- attend in-service courses and keep colleagues informed;
- be involved in staff training;
- monitor and evaluate Re throughout school;
- actively promote effective RE within the school and its community to keep the profile of RE high within school.

### **The Right to Withdraw from RE**

At Royston St John Baptist CE Primary School, we wish to be an inclusive community but recognise that parent have the legal right to withdraw their children's religious education on the grounds of conscience, without giving a reason. However, the right to withdrawal does not extend to other areas of the curriculum when, as may happen on occasions, spontaneous questions on religious matter are raised by pupils or there are issues related to religion that arise in other subjects such as

history or PSHE. We would ask any parent considering this to contact the head teacher to discuss any concerns or anxieties about the policy, provision, and practice of religious education at Royston St John Baptist CE Primary, as well as the options open to the parents as set out in educational law.

### **Evaluation and Review**

We intend that this policy should operate for the next year, and then be fully reviewed by all staff and governors. The subject leader's role includes monitoring and evaluation of this policy in practice. We maintain a 'self-evaluation' of our RE work in preparation for any scrutiny. This policy may be reviewed early should there be a requirement due to change in law or guidance.

**Policy Created: January 2024**

**Date for Review: January 2025**