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Statutory:	Policy provided centrally for adoption by schools with minimal amendment to the core text. Changes are allowed to the text where indicated

Religious Education Policy

St Nicholas CE Infants' School

Approved by:	**Ethos & Governance**
Date:	**September 2024**
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Adopted by school:	**St Nicholas C.E. Infants' School**
Date:	**September 2025**

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Introduction

We believe that the teaching of Religious Education (RE) reflects the ethos and values that are held in our school and promotes understanding of people of all faiths and none. RE has the same high status as any other subject and contributes to the overall development of our pupils from all backgrounds and traditions.

The Legal Position

Every school in England must provide the National Curriculum, RE, and Relationship, Sex and Health Education (RSHE). See paragraph below for the information about the right of parents to withdraw from RE. ODST Trustees have determined that religious education in our school should be based upon the Locally Agreed Syllabus Oxfordshire Locally Agreed Syllabus, while also, in Church of England schools, reflecting the requirements of the Statement of Entitlement for Religious Education published by the Education Office of the Church of England in February 2019.

For Church of England schools, the statutory section 48 (SIAMS) inspection will evaluate the quality of RE provision and the way that it expresses the Christian vision of the school.

Purpose and Aims of RE

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

Therefore, the aims of RE in our school are:

- To know about and understand Christianity as a diverse global living faith through the exploration of core beliefs using an approach that critically engages with biblical text.
- To gain knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews appreciating diversity, continuity and change within the religions and worldviews being studied.
- To engage with challenging questions of meaning and purpose raised by human existence and experience.
- 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 explore their own religious, spiritual and philosophical ways living, believing and thinking.

Curriculum and Time Allocation

The RE curriculum at our school, has been approved by the Local Governing Body (LGB). In accordance with the law, Christianity predominates across the RE curriculum offer.

In line with the locally agreed syllabus, it is suggested that the total time for RE is between 5% and 10%, and it is taught in dedicated lessons/blocks/cross-curricular settings as appropriate. **The time dedicated to RE is separate from the time given to Collective Worship.**

Teaching, Learning and Assessment

RE teaching is challenging and robust, taught using an enquiry-based approach focused on Big Questions, discussion and investigation. Learning will be organised 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 Fundamental British Values. All faiths are treated respectfully, and opportunities will be made to engage in age-appropriate, meaningful discussion. Where possible pupils will encounter believers and visit places of worship.

A variety of resources, styles, and techniques will be used as appropriate to enable all children to make progress in RE regardless of their starting points, ability or background.

Assessment procedures will be robust and in line with the assessment procedures and feedback policy of the school, meeting the requirements of the previously noted syllabus or scheme that has been adopted. Pupils will engage in a variety of activities which enable teachers to assess what they have learnt. Records kept will include information about pupils' experiences and judgements about their attainment and progress, as well as being used to inform planning.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The headteacher and LGB will ensure that effective monitoring takes place according to the school's policies, and that the impact of teaching and learning is assessed. Monitoring activity may include lesson visits, book and planning reviews, and pupil interviews when appropriate.

The Right of Withdrawal

Pupils may be withdrawn from RE or part of RE by a parent or guardian in accordance with Schedule 19 to the School Standards and Framework Act 1998; teachers can exercise their right to withdraw from teaching the subject. However, we hope that all parents and teachers will feel comfortable with the type of religious education being taught at this school and we encourage discussion with leaders prior to a request to withdraw. Parents who wish to withdraw their children must provide written notification to this effect, and this will be reviewed on an annual basis. The school will keep pupils safe during RE lessons, but is not required to provide any work or reading material for pupils who have been withdrawn.

Policy Review

This policy should be reviewed regularly in line with the school's procedures, at least every three years.