	Offley Endowed Primary School and Nursery	**Reviewed**	September 2026
		Next Review:	September 2028
Policy Title:	**Religious Education**	***Users:***	Staff, Governors Parents

1. INTRODUCTION

Religious Education (RE) occupies a special place in the curriculum of this school. It is a subject which must by law be included in the basic curriculum of the school. As this is a Voluntary Aided school, the RE curriculum is required by law to be determined by the Governors in accordance with the Trust deed of the school. The Deed for our school states that religious education shall be given in accordance with the established religion of The Church of England.

This is the basis for determining the RE Policy and although times and society have changed since the founding of the school and the formation of the Trust Deed, we believe that we should positively set standards of behaviour and values which are informed by the teaching of Jesus and not merely accept or reflect existing social and moral standards.

Our Scheme of Work for Religious Education is based on the Discovery RE enquiry-based approach to Religious Education and Jigsaw RE. We also include units produced by charities such as Christian Aid and CAFOD. Each Christianity enquiry in Discovery RE and Jigsaw RE has the underpinning Christian concept/core belief made explicit. We have ensured that the long-term plans for each year group meet the requirements for Hertfordshire's Locally Agreed Syllabus. As a church school, we expect all children to participate in RE lessons. While parents do have a right to withdraw their children from lessons in RE, this would normally only happen after consultation with the Headteacher.

2. PHILOSOPHY

We do not attempt to convince children of the truth of any particular religion, but to inform them of the beliefs and practices of followers of Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism and in particular, Christianity. We also introduce the children in key stage two to non-religious worldviews. We endeavour to teach the children accurately about other cultures and people so they may understand and respect their differences.

We believe that RE provides valuable opportunities for children to learn more about other religions in an atmosphere where they are free to question, reflect and analyse differences.

3. INTENT

- To help the children develop a sense of awe and wonder, and also an understanding of spiritual experiences.
- To understand the important influences Christianity has had on our British heritage and culture.
- To learn about a diverse range of faiths and religious perspectives to broaden their worldview, encourage cultural understanding and promote respect for different beliefs.

- To learn not only about, but also from, Christianity, other world religions and non-religious worldviews and apply this knowledge to children's own lives.
- To provide opportunities for quiet reflection, including during Collective Worship and RE lessons.

4. IMPLEMENTATION

Year Group	Coverage
EYFS	Christianity, Religious Celebrations (Hinduism, Christianity, Islam, Judaism)
Year 1	Christianity, Judaism
Year 2	Christianity, Judaism, Islam
Year 3	Christianity, Judaism, Sikhism
Year 4	Christianity, Islam, Sanatana Dharma (Hinduism)
Year 5	Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism, Humanism
Year 6	Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Ethical Veganism

- Where possible, visits and visitors will be used to enhance the learning in RE: eg. Visit to St Albans Abbey, Islamic Centre in Luton. Participation in other events is also encouraged, eg. Lifepath Newton in Olney and Lifepath Bunyan in Elstow.
- ICT based resources will be used in RE.
- Music, dance and drama will feature in RE lessons.

The school aims to meet the recommended time of 5% of curriculum time for classroom RE across the year. This may be spread across the school year with greater emphasis when the church is celebrating major festivals such as Christmas and Easter. Time spent on school productions is additional to recommended and allocated time. RE is taught throughout the school by class teachers, with a dedicated RE teacher in Key Stage 2

5. RESOURCES

Resources are located in the cupboard in the hall and staffroom. The Diocesan Education Centre in St Albans has a range of suitable resources and artefacts which may be borrowed when studying particular faiths and festivals.

6. ASSESSMENT AND MARKING

Teachers assess the children's understanding mainly through observation of participation in discussion and written and illustrative work. Children are encouraged to take part in self-assessment. Assessment takes place every term across the whole school, with staff working together to level the children's work. We use the Discovery RE and Jigsaw RE assessment criteria (depending on the topic taught) to understand whether the children are working towards, at or beyond the expected standard.
Children's work is assessed regularly, with written feedback given where appropriate.

7. MONITORING

In line with other core subjects, the subject leader and linked Governor will monitor the implementation of this policy. In addition, they will monitor standards of achievement and progress as well as the quality of teaching through data analysis, lesson plan and work scrutiny, pupil interviews and lesson observations. A folder containing samples of children's work and the outcomes of any monitoring is held by the Subject Leader.

8. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

All children have equal opportunities to reach their full potential in RE in accordance with the statements in the school policy for equal opportunities.

Ethos statement proposed for inclusion in the DfEE guidelines as recommended to be adopted by governing bodies of Church of England schools.
Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the church at parish and diocesan level.
The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Collective Worship policy.

Appendix 1

Non-negotiables of RE

RE Books

- Cover sheet for all new units.
- Clear learning objectives linked to the key question for the enquiry.
- Must see clear progression between exploration of text, making connections, impact and deeper understanding.

Prayer space

- Prayer space should include table cloth, school prayer, class prayer or class prayer book, cross, candle, Bible and displaying the current value for the half term.
- Each class should display our vision statement; ‘Be all you can be; with God all things are possible’ – Matthew 19:26