

Policy for Religious Education and Non-Religious Worldviews

St Catherine's Church of England School



Our Vision

At St Catherine's, we strive to educate our pupils to realise their aspirations and to contribute positively to society guided by our Christian values.

Through the story of 'The Good Samaritan' the children learn to be curious about the world, open in their experiences, overcome prejudices, encourage dignity and respect, live well together, celebrate individual differences and encourage kind, hopeful actions – working together towards a hopeful, inclusive world. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your mind, with all your soul, with all your strength; and love your neighbour as yourself."

'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 life well together.'

RE Statement of Entitlement from the Church of England Education Office (Feb 2019)

Policy Statement

Religious Education and Worldviews (REW) has a very high profile within St Catherine's curriculum and makes a significant contribution to preparing pupils for life in modern Britain. Learning activities provide fully for the needs of all learners. Pupils will be inspired by the subject and develop a wide range of skills such as enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and reflection, to deepen their understanding of the impact of religion and beliefs on the world. Christianity is taught as a living, global and diverse faith, focused on the teachings of Jesus and the Church, alongside a range of other religious and non-religious worldviews. Religious Education encourages pupils to learn from different religions, beliefs, values and traditions while creating a safe space for them to explore their own personal worldviews and questions of meaning.

Legal Requirements

As a Voluntary Aided (VA) School, we are required to follow the Cornwall Agreed Syllabus 2025 as drawn up by the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education [SACRE].

Section 48 of the 2005 Education Act requires the inspection of religious education in schools which have a religious character. This is the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS).

Aims of RE

- To enable pupils to know about and understand Christianity as a global, living faith that influences the lives of people worldwide and as the religion that has most shaped British culture and heritage
- To enable pupils to know about and understand diverse religious and non-religious worldviews, their impact on society, culture and the wider world, and to appreciate the diversity, continuity and change within them
- To engage with challenging questions of meaning and purpose
- To contribute to the development of pupils' own spiritual and philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their personal worldviews whilst recognising that one's own worldview may adapt and change rather than remaining static

Teaching and Learning

In line with the 'Church of England RE Statement of Entitlement' [2019] at St Catherine's we aim to provide:

- A curriculum that enables pupils to acquire a rich, deep knowledge and understanding of Christian belief and practice as a global, world faith
- A curriculum that draws on the richness and diversity of religious experience worldwide
- The opportunity for pupils to deepen their understanding of the religious and non-religious worldviews as lived by believers
- A pedagogy that instils respect for different views and interpretations; and, in which real dialogue and theological enquiry takes place
- Engaging and varied learning activities that provide for the needs of all learners, supported by high quality resources
- The opportunity for pupils to develop a wide range of skills including enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and reflection through the disciplinary lenses of theology, social science and philosophy (also described as ways of knowing)
- An RE curriculum that makes a positive contribution to SMSC development and also to pupils' understanding of British values
- An assessment process which has rigour and demonstrates progression based on knowledge and understanding of core religious concepts

Implementation/'Ways of Knowing'

At St Catherine's, our teaching of Religious Education is rooted in our vision to nurture pupils who aspire, flourish, and contribute positively to society, guided by our Christian values. Through the example of *The Good Samaritan*, we encourage children to be curious about faith and the world around them, to welcome diverse perspectives, and to challenge prejudice with dignity and respect. RE provides opportunities for pupils to live well together, to celebrate difference, and to take hopeful, kind actions that reflect God's love. In learning, discussion, and reflection, we seek to embody Jesus' teaching: "*Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your mind, with all your soul, with all your strength; and love your neighbour as yourself.*"

Key features of RE. Pupils experience opportunities to learn and express themselves through an enquiry-based style of learning by:

- Experiencing variety of teaching and learning approaches
- Engaging with teacher presentations, role play, drama and story telling
- Making their own presentations
- Posing and discussing 'big' and challenging questions
- Reading and critically analysing texts
- Interpreting information from different sources
- Researching information for themselves in libraries and on computers
- Listening to and discussing with the teacher and other pupils
- Engaging in pair and group work
- Exploring a range of media such as artefacts, pictures/art, photographs, music and drama, Information Technology
- Experiencing visits and visitors to connect with diverse faith and belief communities
- Taking part in outdoor learning
- Taking time for listening, reflection and dialogue
- Curriculum balance and time

Teaching in RE challenges stereotypes, misinformation and misconceptions about race, gender and religion. Lessons seek to present religions and world views in all their richness and diversity in terms of beliefs, traditions, customs and lifestyle in a sensitive and accurate way in order to encourage a positive attitude towards diversity. Questions, views and opinions are treated with sensitivity and respect. Teaching enables pupils to gain something of personal value from their study of religious belief and practice, for example, the way that they might apply insights gained from religious stories to their own lives.

Reflecting St Catherine's school's academy funding agreement, Christianity is the majority religion studied, with at least 50% of curriculum time. Sufficient dedicated curriculum time, meeting explicitly RE objectives, is given to RE through weekly lessons for every pupil, plus additional enrichment days during the year. Our aim is to be close to 10% each week in key stages 1 and 2.

This school takes note that the RE entitlement is totally separate from requirements for daily collective worship. Collective worship **is not** considered as curriculum time for RE or the teaching of RE.

Foundation/Reception: RE is a compulsory part of the basic curriculum for all Reception-age pupils and should be taught according to the 'agreed syllabus for RE'. The statutory requirement for religious education does not extend to nursery classes in maintained schools. RE sits very firmly within the areas of personal, social and emotional development and understanding the world. In line with the DfE's 2024 EYFS Profile, the school plans RE through purposeful play and a mix of adult-led and child-initiated activity which may be in the form of continuous provision.

Resources

At St Catherine's we use the Cornwall Agreed Syllabus in conjunction with Understanding Christianity. We select materials and resources from Natre and RE Today carefully considering and reviewing texts, images, artefacts and resources to ensure that they accurately reflect faith and beliefs and do not reinforce unhelpful or inaccurate stereotypes. See <https://rematters.co.uk/challenging-stereotypes> for more information.

Visits and Visitors

We recognise the importance of visiting places of worship as well as meeting faith leaders and members of the community as a way of knowing and understanding the impact of belief and worldviews on the way people live. We value the links with the local and wider community, including the local parish church. The RE subject leader supports class teachers to organise educational visits.

Matching work to Pupils' Needs

Our whole school policy regarding inclusive practice for all learners including those with additional needs, applies to RE. Teachers carefully consider equitable access to the RE curriculum for all learners. [explain expectations]

Assessment

Assessment in religious education and worldviews will:

- Involve identifying suitable opportunities in schemes of work
- Be directly related to the expectations of the Cornwall Agreed Syllabus 2025
- Seek to identify development in the different areas of learning in the subject and not only in the acquisition of factual knowledge
- Recognise the range of skills and attitudes which the subject seeks to develop
- Employ well defined criteria for marking and assessment which identify progress and achievement as well as effort, following the school's marking policy

- Include pupil self-assessment
- Enable effective tracking of pupil progress to identify areas for development in pupil's knowledge and understanding, as well as whole school areas for development
- Enable effective reporting to parents/carers

Monitoring, Evaluation, Assessment, Recording, Reporting

- [The Local Governing Body](#) have responsibility for monitoring how RE in the school reflects its Christian vision
- The headteacher/head of school has overall responsibility for monitoring and evaluation
- The RE subject leader will assist the headteacher by monitoring long term and medium-term plans
- The RE subject leader will assist the headteacher by monitoring RE through focused work scrutiny
- The subject leader will keep a file of examples of work to demonstrate continuity and progression
- The subject leader will manage resources
- The subject leader will endeavour to keep up to date with information, initiatives and developments in religious education and disseminate this as appropriate
- The subject leader will facilitate the sharing of good practice
- The subject leader will be responsible for drawing up an action plan for religious education. Generally, this will be an annual plan and should be informed by this policy
- The subject leader will liaise with the Diocesan adviser with responsibility for Religious Education
- The subject leader will report to Ofsted (as a formerly VC school) and SIAMS as part of the statutory inspection processes.
- The subject leader will report to the headteacher/Local Governing Body who in turn will report to the Directors of the Trust as required to support their monitoring and evaluations and inform SEF writing and school improvement and training priorities.

Staff training and development

All staff have access to RE CPD in line with the subject leader's identified areas for development. This is 'in house' and through diocesan or other support. Where possible the RE subject leader attends regular local network meetings with the Trust or through the Diocese.

Transition

We ensure that reports across key stages include a simple statement of the religions, worldviews and themes that pupils have covered alongside their progress and achievement.

Managing the right to withdraw from RE

At St Catherine's school, RE is taught as an engaging, inclusive and enquiry-led subject, open to all and at the centre of the curriculum, and we would hope that all parents would understand the value of this for all children. However, parents/carers do have a right by law to withdraw their children from Religious Education lessons. In this event, we will undertake responsibility for their supervision with regard to health and safety. The school follows the [guidance](#) offered by the Diocese of Exeter and we always encourage parents/carers to discuss any concerns they may have about the REW curriculum with the headteacher/head of school before making a final decision. Requests for full or partial withdrawal need to be made to the headteacher in writing.

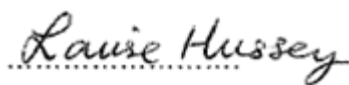
This policy should be read in conjunction with...

- Teaching and Learning
- Relationships and Behaviour
- Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural (SMSC)
- All subject specific curriculum policies

This policy will be reviewed in line with the school's rolling programme of review but at least every 3 years and when the agreed syllabus is updated.

RE Link Governor: Joy McSmythurs

Named RE Subject Leader: Pippa Warner



Headteacher signed:

Date: 15.9.25

Chair of Governors signed:

Date:

Date for review: September 2028

Referenced reading:

Church of England Education Office (CEEO) Spiritual Development – Interpretations of Spiritual Development in the Classroom (2019)
Church of England RE Statement of Entitlement
Cornwall Agreed Syllabus 2025