

St Kenelm's C of E Primary School



RE Policy

February 2024

Nurturing each and all. Guiding, Trusting, Inspiring and Celebrating.

Our Vision, Values and Ethos

Our Vision

Nurturing each and all. Guiding, Trusting, Inspiring and Celebrating.

(The Parable of the Lost Sheep, Matthew 18. 10-14)

Our vision is to celebrate and support all individuals on their life journey within a Christian ethos. We aim to provide a nurturing environment inspiring all to achieve their full potential and flourish through personal discovery within a caring, trusting community.

Our Values

Respect, Honesty, Friendship, Compassion, Thankfulness & Wisdom.

Values are fundamental expressions of what we think and believe. As a school we encourage children to think about personal and social values and to develop their capacity to be active and effective citizens.

Our Ethos

St Kenelm's School demonstrates the major Christian values in the ways children are cared for and in the care and respect the children are expected to show towards all other people, the world beyond the school and their immediate surroundings. As a school, we celebrate the diversity of the wider community and are committed to the principles of inclusion and equal opportunity.

Being kind, helpful and tolerant to each other in line with New Testament teaching underpins the school's ethos.

Following Jesus, our Good Shepherd, our hope is that children will grow into good shepherds themselves; treating each other with love, kindness, care and respect, as they would want to be treated themselves.

Respect, Honesty, Friendship, Compassion, Thankfulness, Wisdom

The Education Act of 1988 requires that Religious Education be taught to all pupils. It must be “in the main Christian whilst taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principle religions represented in Great Britain.”

Religious Education plays a central role in offering the broad and balanced curriculum that will enable students to participate fully in life in modern Britain and the wider world. It aims to enable young people to hold informed and balanced conversations about religions and beliefs. It sets out to provide a safe environment where they can explore their own ideas and learn to evaluate the opinions of others.

In St Kenelm’s School, RE plays an important role in supporting the Christian ethos of the school. RE reflects the vision and values that are held 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 maintained school in England must provide a basic curriculum (RE, sex education and the National Curriculum). This includes provision for RE for all registered pupils at the school, except for those withdrawn by their parents (see paragraph below). As a voluntary controlled school, RE is therefore taught in accordance with the Locally Agreed Syllabus:

<https://www.oxford.anglican.org/schools/religious-education/re-scheme-work/>

while also reflecting the requirements of the Statement of Entitlement for Religious Education published by the Education Office of the Church of England in June 2016. The statutory section 48 (SIAMS) inspection will evaluate the way that RE contributes to the Christian character of the school and the teaching of RE will reflect this requirement.

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 enable pupils to know about and understand Christianity as a living faith that influences the lives of people worldwide and as the religion which has most shaped British culture and heritage.
- To enable pupils to know about and understand other world religions and world views and their impact on society, culture and the wider world.
- To enable pupils to consider and express their own ideas and insights.
- To contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils and their own spiritual and philosophical convictions.
- To develop a positive attitude towards other people, respecting their right to hold different beliefs from their own and towards living in a society of diverse religions.

Curriculum

The RE curriculum at St Kenelm's School, follows the Locally Agreed Syllabus. Christianity is taught in every year group, with key concepts revisited on a spiral curriculum. Approximately two-thirds of the time is devoted to Christianity. Other religions are covered according to the syllabus; eg Judaism in KS1, Hinduism & Islam in KS2.

We have a strong Christian tradition within the school which we will continue to develop through our core Christian values of **Respect, Honesty, Friendship, Compassion, Thankfulness** and **Wisdom**.

Teaching, Learning and Assessment

RE is taught using an enquiry-based approach, (based around Big Questions and an investigative approach) that is challenging and robust. 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 follow those of the Agreed Syllabus and be in accordance with other assessment and feedback procedures in the school. Students will engage in a variety of activities, which will also 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 RE subject leader and SLT will monitor teaching and learning in RE in accordance with school policy. The RE subject leader will observe teaching, conduct book and planning reviews and pupil interviews when appropriate to assess the quality of teaching and learning. The headteacher and governors will ensure that adequate monitoring takes place and that the impact of such activity is assessed.

Resources

The RE subject leader will ensure that RE resources are kept up-to-date and that staff are informed when new resources are purchased or made available electronically. Resources will include source materials (e.g. Bibles, visitors, artefacts) where appropriate and be treated with respect by all staff.

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. Parents, who wish to withdraw their children, must provide written notification to this effect and provide suitable activities for their

children. The school will keep pupils safe but will not provide any work or reading material for pupils who have been withdrawn.

This policy should be read alongside:

- SEND policy
- Equal Opportunities policy
- *Valuing All God's Children* document

Signed on behalf of the school:

Signed on behalf of the governors:

Date: February 2024

Date to review: February 2026