



# Religious Education Policy

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Statutory or Best Practice Policy	Statutory
School or Trust Policy	School

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## Christian Distinctiveness

At The Bishops' Church of England Learning Academy, our mantra, 'Faith to Belong, Believe, Aspire and Achieve' is based on The Parable of the Mustard Seed:

***If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you. Matthew 17:20***

This underpins our Christian vision statement at The Bishops':

We belong to Team Bishops' where through our Christian distinctiveness and nurturing ethos we celebrate our differences. We believe that we will achieve through inspirational, exciting and challenging learning that utilizes our natural environment. We aspire to create endless possibilities for our pupils and to make a positive contribution to society. We achieve by enabling everyone to flourish academically, spiritually and emotionally.

## Aims and purpose of the policy

The aim of teaching RE at The Bishops' is to support and challenge pupils to reflect upon, develop and affirm their own beliefs. Also, the teaching promotes their values and attitudes and those of others through an exploration of shared human experiences and to understand the place and significance of religion in the contemporary world. We have made our scheme of work, which is in accordance with the Cornwall Agreed syllabus 2020, relevant, exciting, thought-provoking and accessible to all our children.

In addition, as a Church of England primary school, we give the teaching of Christianity a greater emphasis than the teaching of other religions and to make clear the links with Church of England teaching and practice.

## Related policies

The following polices should be read in conjunction with this policy:

- Positive behaviour policy with Covid addendum
- RSE policy
- Teaching and Learning policy
- PHSE policy
- Equality policy
- Collective Worship Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Progression in Spirituality Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding policy with Covid addendum

### 1. The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of children

The 1988 Education Reform act requires schools to promote the spiritual, moral and cultural development of pupils and the school and in society through the provision of a broad and balanced curriculum. At The Bishops', RE plays an important role, along with all of the other curriculum areas. What we learn about others and ourselves in RE and across the curriculum we apply in our daily lives.



See Appendix 1 – SMSC at The Bishops’.

## **2. The implementation of the agreed syllabus on RE and The Bishops’ approach:**

Despite our Anglican status, there are no presumptions made as to the religious backgrounds, beliefs and values of the children. All staff are expected to work together to achieve our aims, guided by our mission statement. Some are Christians from a variety of denominations. We value the religious background of all members of the school community and hope that this will encourage individuals to share their own experiences with others freely.

All religions and their communities are treated with respect and sensitivity and we value the links that can be made between home, school and a faith community. We acknowledge that each religion studied can contribute to the education of all of our pupils. We promote teaching in RE that stresses open enquiry and first hand experiences wherever possible for both staff and children. The syllabus is implemented by means of a sensory approach, where children may look at and handle religious artefacts, hear music or taste food from a religious tradition.

## **3. Content of Religious Education curriculum**

The content draws on the Cornwall Agreed Syllabus 2020 and is set out in modules. The following are studied:

- Christianity (this is taken from the highly comprehensive ‘Understanding Christianity’ resource)
- Judaism
- Hinduism
- Islam
- Thematic units that focus on previous learning complete by the children

In addition to this, the school’s values-based approach is underpinned each half term with a values day which is illustrated through a deep theological study of a biblical text. See Appendix 2 – The Bishops’ Values Plan.

## **4. Time allocation**

RE is taught in every class on a weekly basis. It takes up a minimum of 1 hour of curriculum time per week.

## **5. Teaching and resources:**

Learning in RE may be by means of direct whole class teaching or in smaller groups, by providing direct hands-on experience with RE resources, teacher prepared materials, stories, poetry, drama, trips and visitors. A range of reference materials for Religious Education are available comprising books, curriculum resources, online materials and website links. There are also posters and artefact boxes. Staff are aware of useful websites such as [www.request.org.uk](http://www.request.org.uk) and also [www.curriculumkernewek.org.uk](http://www.curriculumkernewek.org.uk)

In addition, the school has close links with St Michael’s Church in Newquay and utilises the expertise of the leaders within the church as well as those in other denominational churches in the area.



## **6. Links with other subjects**

RE has links with other areas of the curriculum such as English, Science, History and Art. It also has links with the way in which the school organises its collective worship. There are very close links with the school's PSHE curriculum which is taught weekly and encourages the children to be reflective about their own thoughts and opinions as well as embrace values which are important to them.

## **7. Withdrawal from RE**

It is recognised that parents have the right to withdraw their child from RE in its entirety or in part. If a parent chooses to withdraw their child from RE then arrangements are made by the class teacher in consultation with the Headteacher.

## **8. The Religious Education leader**

Miss Jessop is the leader for RE and is responsible for the development of the subject across the school. She is responsible for helping staff to plan RE for a particular class, monitoring planning and what is taught in RE by spending time in classrooms, looking at children's work and talking to pupils. The leader is also responsible for the purchase and storage of all RE resources. She works closely in her role with the Senior Leadership Team and Trust Church Schools Network. Miss Jessop attends training courses on new initiatives and updates on the subject and provides staff training for all teachers as well as teachers in other schools within the trust.

## **9. Pupil Voice in RE**

Our Worship Leaders play an active role in leading worship throughout the school in our assemblies. Worship Leaders also evaluate the impact of collective worship. In Class Learning Forums, pupils are consulted about how they feel about their RE learning and their opinions are a key part of our school review process.

## **10. Monitoring and evaluation:**

The RE curriculum is monitored and evaluated regularly through learning walks, planning and learning scrutinies and conversations with both children and staff. The effectiveness of any INSET for Religious Education provided from within the school or by an external agency is evaluated either by means of a written evaluation or by verbal feedback.

## **11. Policy review**

This policy is reviewed annually.