



Shipham C of E First School

Inspiring Growth Through Nature and Community

Religious Education (RE) Policy



This policy will be reviewed by the Local Partnership Board every 3 years.

Date Agreed: September 2025

Review Date: September 2028

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At Shipham Church of England First School we believe children live up to their potential if they are happy, have fun, feel nurtured and grow from a foundation of strong Christian Values. We value spirituality and the holistic development of the child. Our role as educators is to guide the children in our care along the path of life. As children grow in their understanding of spirituality and values they become secure enough to make mistakes and therefore move on with their spiritual learning and academic growth. We are a highly inclusive school and welcome all faiths, cultures and children from any background.

‘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 (RE) has a very high profile within the Shipham Church of England First School 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 on the world. Christianity is taught as a living and diverse faith, focused on the teachings of Jesus and the Church, alongside a range of religions and 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 beliefs and questions of meaning.

Legal Requirements

As a Voluntary Controlled School, the school teaches religious education according to the Somerset agreed syllabus, ‘Awareness, Mystery and Value’ <https://www.amvsomerset.org.uk/> 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)

Managing the right to withdraw

Parents have a right by law to withdraw their children from the Religious Education curriculum. In this event, we will undertake responsibility for their supervision with regard to health and safety. Information on these arrangements are clear on our website. There will always be opportunity for parents to discuss the contents of the RE curriculum should they have concerns.

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Aims of RE

- To enable pupils to know about and understand Christianity as a 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 other major world religions and world views, their impact on society, culture and the wider world, and to appreciate the diversity, continuity and change within those religions and world views
- To engage with challenging questions of meaning and purpose
- To contribute to the development of pupils' own spiritual/philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own beliefs and values.

Teaching and Learning

In line with the Church of England RE Statement of Entitlement [2019] at Shipham Church of England First School we aim to provide:

- A curriculum that enables pupils to acquire a rich, deep knowledge and understanding of Christian belief and practice
- A curriculum that draws on the richness and diversity of religious experience worldwide
- The opportunity for pupils to deepen their understanding of the religion and world views 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
- RE 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

- Religious education may be taught in a 'whole class' setting but with flexibility to allow for discussion, questioning and reflection in small groups and individually
- Visits to local churches and other places of worship are encouraged
- A variety of teaching approaches are encouraged:

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- Teacher presentations, role play, drama and story telling
- Questions and answer sessions, discussions and debates
- Individual and group research
- Photographs, pictures and maps
- IT, film, podcasts, radio, websites, to research and communicate ideas.

Curriculum balance and time

Reflecting Shipham Church of England First School's trust deed, Christianity should be the majority religion studied and should be at least 50% of curriculum time. Sufficient dedicated curriculum time, meeting explicitly RE objectives, should be given to RE. This should aim to be close to 10% but no less than 5% in key stages 1 and 2

Resources

'Awareness, Mystery and Value' <https://www.amvsomerset.org.uk/>

Websites, artefacts, books, stories, drama scripts, artwork, music, songs, film clips, focal points e.g. a picture or candle, to support AMV Units – either in school or borrowed from the Diocesan library.

Monitoring, Evaluation, Assessment, Recording, Reporting

- Governors have responsibility for monitoring how the RE in the school reflects its Christian vision
- The headteacher 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 work scrutinies
- 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 be aware of staff development needs and encourage continuing professional development.
- 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.

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- The subject leader will liaise with the Diocesan adviser with responsibility for Religious Education

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