



Shipham C of E First School

Inspiring Growth Through Nature and Community

Religion and Worldviews Policy



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

Date Agreed: September 2026

Review Date: September 2029

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School Vision

At Shipham Church of England First School we believe children live up to their potential when they are happy, have fun, feel nurtured and grow from a foundation of strong Christian values. We value spirituality and the holistic development of every child.

Inspired by the Christian vision of "*life in all its fullness*" (John 10:10), we seek to enable all members of our school community to flourish academically, spiritually, socially and emotionally. Through Religion and Worldviews education, pupils are encouraged to explore questions of meaning, purpose, identity and belonging, developing respect, compassion and understanding for people of all faiths and worldviews.

We are a highly inclusive school and welcome all faiths, cultures and backgrounds. Our Religion and Worldviews curriculum reflects our commitment to dignity, diversity and courageous advocacy, helping pupils become thoughtful citizens who can contribute positively to modern Britain and the wider world.

Statement of Intent

Religion and Worldviews (R&W) is a central part of our curriculum and makes a significant contribution to pupils' spiritual development, religious literacy and understanding of diversity.

R&W enables pupils to:

- develop a rich knowledge and understanding of Christianity as a living and diverse faith
- explore a range of religious and non-religious worldviews
- understand how beliefs, values and practices influence individuals and communities
- engage with challenging questions about meaning, purpose, truth, identity and morality
- develop respect for different perspectives whilst reflecting on their own beliefs and experiences
- become religiously literate citizens able to navigate an increasingly diverse society

Learning activities provide for the needs of all learners and encourage curiosity, enquiry, reflection and respectful dialogue.

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Legal Requirements

As a Voluntary Controlled Church of England school, the governing body is responsible for ensuring that Religion and Worldviews (Religious Education) reflects the school's foundation and Christian character. The curriculum is determined in accordance with the school's trust deed, relevant legislation, and diocesan guidance.

The school teaches Religious Education through the Somerset Agreed Syllabus, *Religion and Worldviews*, which is approved by the Somerset Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE).

This policy reflects:

- The Church of England Statement of Entitlement (2026)
- The Church of England Vision for Education
- The Religious Education Council's understanding of Religion and Worldviews education
- Current national developments in Religion and Worldviews education
- Statutory requirements relating to Religious Education in Church schools

Religious Education in Church schools is inspected through the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS).

Religion and Worldviews

We recognise that people make sense of life through a wide range of religious and non-religious worldviews.

Religion and Worldviews education helps pupils understand:

- how beliefs and worldviews influence people's lives
- the diversity that exists both between and within faith and belief communities
- how religion and worldviews shape culture, ethics, identity and society
- the importance of dialogue, mutual respect and understanding

Pupils encounter authentic examples of lived religion and lived worldviews through stories, visitors, artefacts, places of worship and engagement with local and global communities.

Right of Withdrawal

Parents retain the legal right to withdraw their child from Religious Education.

Where a request for withdrawal is made, the Headteacher will discuss the request with parents to ensure they understand the aims and content of the curriculum and the arrangements that will be made for supervision.

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Aims

Religion and Worldviews education aims to:

Christianity

- enable pupils to know about and understand Christianity as a living faith
- explore Christian beliefs, values and practices
- understand the significance of Christianity within British culture and heritage
- examine the diversity that exists within Christian communities locally, nationally and globally

Religious and Non-Religious Worldviews

- enable pupils to know about and understand a range of religious and non-religious worldviews
- appreciate diversity, continuity and change within faith and belief communities
- understand how worldviews influence decision-making, relationships and behaviour

Personal Development

- engage with challenging questions of meaning, purpose and truth
- develop spiritual awareness and reflective thinking
- foster respect, empathy and understanding
- encourage pupils to reflect on their own beliefs, values and experiences

Religious Literacy

- develop the knowledge and vocabulary needed to discuss religion and worldviews accurately and respectfully
- equip pupils to participate confidently in life within a diverse society
- prepare pupils to live well together in a multi-faith and multi-cultural world.

Teaching and Learning

In line with the Church of England Statement of Entitlement, we provide:

A rich curriculum

- Christianity as the majority religion studied
- opportunities to study a range of religious and non-religious worldviews
- learning rooted in authentic lived experiences
- engagement with local, national and global communities

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A disciplinary approach

Pupils learn through different ways of thinking and investigating, including:

Theological enquiry

- What do people believe?
- How do beliefs shape understanding?

Philosophical enquiry

- What is truth?
- How should we live?

Human and Social Sciences

- How do people express beliefs in everyday life?
- How do communities practise and experience religion and worldviews?

High-quality learning experiences

Learning may include:

- discussion and debate
- storytelling
- drama and role play
- visits to places of worship
- visitors from faith and belief communities
- artefacts and sacred texts
- art, music and literature
- research using digital technology
- reflection and personal response

All learning takes place within a safe and respectful environment where different viewpoints are valued.

Curriculum Balance and Time

Reflecting the school's foundation and Church of England character:

- Christianity will constitute at least 50% of curriculum time.
- The remainder of the curriculum will include the study of a range of religious and non-religious worldviews.

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- Sufficient curriculum time will be allocated to enable depth of learning and progression.
- Curriculum time will broadly align with Church of England expectations of approximately 5–10% of curriculum time.

Spiritual Development and Flourishing

Religion and Worldviews contributes significantly to pupils' spiritual development.

The curriculum provides opportunities for pupils to:

- experience awe and wonder
- reflect on questions of meaning and purpose
- explore beliefs and values
- develop self-awareness
- appreciate diversity
- understand what it means to live well together

Through Religion and Worldviews education, pupils are encouraged to flourish as unique individuals created in the image of God whilst developing respect for the dignity and worth of all people.

Assessment

Assessment will:

- identify what pupils know, understand and can do
- demonstrate progression over time
- evaluate pupils' understanding of Christianity, other religions and worldviews
- assess pupils' ability to engage with theological, philosophical and human/social science enquiry
- inform future planning and teaching

Assessment will focus on knowledge, understanding, analysis, reflection and religious literacy.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Local Partnership Board has responsibility for ensuring that Religion and Worldviews reflects the Christian vision of the school.

The Headteacher has overall responsibility for monitoring and evaluation.

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The Subject Leader will:

- monitor teaching and learning
- review planning and pupils' work
- support staff development
- manage resources
- maintain awareness of national developments
- liaise with diocesan advisers
- contribute to school improvement planning
- evaluate the impact of Religion and Worldviews on pupils' learning and flourishing

Monitoring activities may include:

- lesson visits
- pupil voice
- work scrutiny
- planning reviews
- staff discussions
- governor monitoring

Religion and Worldviews plays a vital role in enabling pupils to flourish. It reflects and supports the school's Christian vision by promoting dignity, respect, wisdom, hope, community and courage. Through engagement with Christianity and a range of religious and non-religious worldviews, pupils develop the knowledge, understanding and character needed to live well together and contribute positively to society.

