

# Policy for Religious Education (RE)

Policy Statement on Collective Worship

Reviewed: May 2026

Next Review: May 2028



## Introduction

This document is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for Religion Education at St. Peter's School. It was developed through a process of consultation with teaching staff. It was recommended for approval by the Governors' Teaching and Learning Committee and ratified by the full Governing Body.

'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)

## Our Vision and Our Mission

This policy should be implemented within the context of the vision, aims and values of our Church School.

***St Peter's C of E Primary School - Growing together in mind, body and spirit***

At St. Peter's, our mission is to **achieve outstanding academic progress, especially in reading, and to nurture pupils who are happy, spiritual, respectful, hard working and actively engaging with our community**

Our goal is for 100% of children to reach Age-Related Expectations (ARE) by the end of Year 6. For those on a different learning trajectory, we are committed to ensuring outstanding progress for every child. We make a special effort to support these pupils so they can thrive and succeed within a mainstream school setting.

Our mission is rooted in our Christian ethos: **'Love your neighbour as you love yourself.'** (Luke 10:25-28)

Through **the Parable of the Good Samaritan**, we teach our children and adults about respect and self-motivation in a simple yet powerful way. In the story, a man is hurt and in need of help. Many people pass by without stopping, but a Samaritan, who was considered an outsider, stops and shows caring. He helps the injured man, ensuring he gets the help he needs.

This means:

- **Respect** ourselves and others: The Samaritan's actions show that it doesn't matter who someone is or where they come from; everyone deserves respect and help when they're in trouble, including ourselves. Just like the Good Samaritan, children learn the importance of helping others in need, even if they are strangers or different from themselves.
- Practice **working hard**: Love isn't just a feeling; it's shown through actions and choices. Children learn that showing love means making good choices, and working hard, even when it might be difficult.

## Policy Statement

Religious Education (RE) has a very high profile within the St Peter'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. We teach Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism and Humanism as living and diverse faiths 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 Aided School, at St Peter's our governing body determines our RE curriculum, which is in accordance with the school's trust deed and in line with guidance from the Diocese of Exeter to follow the Devon and Torbay agreed syllabus.

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

We believe that Religious Education plays a vital role for **all** pupils to:

1. Develop knowledge, understanding, curiosity and respect for other people's worldviews. (religious and non-religious);
2. Question, explore and develop their own worldviews to help them make sense of the world and how they live.

We adhere to the Principal Aim from the Devon and Torbay Syllabus 2024 -2029:

"The principal aim of religious education is to explore what people believe and what difference this makes to how they live, so that **all** pupils can gain the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to handle questions raised by religion and worldviews, reflecting on their own ideas and ways of living."

*The key purpose of Religious Education at St Peter's is to:*

- learn about a range of religious and non-religious worldviews
- provoke challenging questions
- develop the skills to agree and disagree respectfully
- develop in pupils an aptitude for dialogue
- [educate for wisdom, knowledge and skills](#)
- [educate for hope and aspiration](#)
- [educate for community and living well together](#)
- [educate for dignity and respect](#)
- enable pupils to understand themselves, others, the world and faiths in order to develop their own spirituality across the curriculum.

## Teaching and Learning

The teaching of Religious Education will reflect our overarching vision as a Church of England Primary School and as such, respect for ourselves, others and the world around us are at the core of all our lessons.

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

- A curriculum that enables pupils to acquire a rich, deep knowledge and understanding of Christian, Jewish, Islamic, Hindi and Humanist 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 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
- 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

At St Peter's, we follow the Devon and Torbay agreed syllabus and use the NATRE Primary RE Curriculum resources and Understanding Christianity to supplement these.

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 storytelling
- Posing and discussing 'big' and challenging questions
- Reading and critically analysing texts
- Interpreting information from different sources
- 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, photographs, music and drama
- Experiencing visits and visitors to connect with diverse faith and belief communities where possible.
- Taking time for listening, reflection and dialogue

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.

All classes receive one hour of dedicated RE teaching every week throughout the year. At least one unit a term is taught by the class teacher. Due to the majority of teachers being part time, where there is a job share the teachers will alternate who teaches RE. Where there is a full time class teacher, one unit a term may be taught by a Higher Level Teaching Assistant supported by the RE Lead and Curriculum Leader.

## Assessment

We use the assessment materials provided with the NATRE Units of Study which we adapt to meet the needs of our learners.

Assessment in religious education will:

- Involve identifying suitable opportunities in schemes of work
- Be directly related to the expectations of the Devon and Torbay Locally Agreed Syllabus
- 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
- 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

### **Monitoring, Evaluation, Assessment, Recording, Reporting**

- Governors have responsibility for monitoring how the RE in the school reflects its Christian vision
- The Curriculum Leader has overall responsibility for monitoring and evaluation
- The RE subject leader will assist the Curriculum Leader by evaluating long term and medium-term plans
- The RE subject leader will assist the Curriculum Leader by monitoring RE through focused work scrutiny, pupil voice and lesson observations
- 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
- The subject leader will liaise with the Diocesan adviser with responsibility for Religious Education

### **Staff training and development**

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

### **Managing the right to withdraw from RE**

At St Peter'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 understand the value of this for all children. However, parents 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 to discuss any concerns they may have about the RE curriculum with the headteacher before making a final decision. Requests for full or partial withdrawal need to be made to the headteacher in writing. Should a pupil be withdrawn from RE, the school will put in place appropriate care and supervision as required on a case by case basis.