



St George's Church of England Infant School

Religious Education Policy

Statutory

Date of Policy: June 2026	Review cycle: Every 2 years	Review date: June 2028
Approved by: Foundation Governor Head Teacher Chair of Governors	Approval date: 28th June 2026	Policy lead: RE lead

Let your Light shine (Matthew 5v16)

The 6 Principles of Nurture:

These principles underpin all teaching and learning at St George's, ensuring that our classrooms are safe, inclusive and supportive spaces for every child to grow and thrive.

1. Children's learning is understood developmentally.
2. The classroom offers a safe and secure base.
3. Nurture is central to wellbeing and learning.
4. Language and communication are vital for connection and understanding.
5. All behaviour is communication.
6. Transitions are recognised and supported as significant moments in a child's life.

Legal and Statutory Framework for Religious Education

Statutory Basis

Religious Education (RE) is part of the basic curriculum for all state-funded schools. While not part of the National Curriculum, RE is a statutory requirement for all registered pupils. This requirement is set out in:

- Education Act 1996 (s. 375)
- School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (Schedule 19 and s. 71)

In Church of England Voluntary Controlled schools, RE is taught in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus and the Church of England Statement of Entitlement (2019).

If the school were to convert to academy status in the future, these requirements would continue under its funding agreement with the Department for Education.

Locally Agreed Syllabus — Buckinghamshire "Challenging RE" 2022–2027

St George's follows the Buckinghamshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education (2022–2027), Challenging RE. This syllabus:

- Adopts a worldviews approach, exploring beliefs, values and ways of living across religions and non-religious worldviews, with Christianity predominant.
- Provides guidance for EYFS, KS1 and KS2 on curriculum design, progression and assessment.

- Recommends a minimum of 5% of curriculum time for RE (approximately one hour per week).
- Promotes academic rigour, respect and open-minded enquiry.

The school implements this syllabus alongside the Church of England Statement of Entitlement (2019), ensuring that RE reflects our Christian vision and the values of the school.

Purpose and Ethos

RE at St George's inspires pupils to develop religious literacy, enabling them to engage with "big questions" about life and belief. It encourages respectful understanding of different faiths and worldviews and helps pupils to make meaning of their own experiences.

The purpose of RE does not include any attempt to alter a child's personal beliefs. RE in this school is inclusive and educational rather than confessional, in line with DfE Circular 1/94 and the Non-Statutory Guidance for Religious Education (2010).

Intent

At St George's, RE seeks to enable pupils to:

- Build knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other principal religions and worldviews;
- Reflect on belief, values and meaning in their own lives;
- Develop skills of enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and empathy;
- Appreciate and respect diversity within and between religious and non-religious traditions.

These aims support our school vision to Let your light shine and *Inspire, Believe, Achieve*.

The purpose of Religious Education does not include any attempt to alter a child's beliefs. Indeed, reflecting the inclusive ethos of the school our religious education programme is designed not 'to convert pupils or urge a particular religion or religious belief on pupils'. (DfE circular 1/94 paragraph 32).

Planning and Delivery

Implementation

Planning and Delivery

- In EYFS, RE is planned in accordance with the EYFS Statutory Framework (2023) and Development Matters, focusing on "Understanding the World", "People, Culture and Communities" and "Personal, Social and Emotional Development". EYFS uses the Oxford Diocese scheme of work as a basis for the teaching and learning.
- In KS1, teaching follows the Buckinghamshire syllabus and draws on the Understanding Christianity resource (The Big Frieze) and the Oxford Diocese scheme of work.
- Lessons are based around enquiry questions and themes such as Special People, Belonging, Our World, and Special Stories.

Teachers plan using two strands of learning:

1. Learning about religion and worldviews
2. Learning from religion and worldviews

A range of strategies are used, including storytelling, visits, visiting speakers, drama, art, discussion and reflection.

Teaching and learning strategies

- Exploration and observation of the environment
- Visits to places of worship and faith communities
- Guest speakers and faith visitors
- Personal reflection and discussion
- Drama, role-play and artwork
- Music, dance and celebration of festivals
- Use of artefacts and symbolism
- Debate and philosophical enquiry

Organisation and Management

The RE Lead is responsible for co-ordinating the subject, resourcing units of work, organising visits and visitors, and supporting staff training. Governors monitor the impact of RE through learning walks and reports to the Governing Body. A named RE Governor is appointed.

Equal Opportunities

St George's is committed to inclusion and equal opportunity for all pupils. RE teaching promotes tolerance, mutual respect and an understanding of diversity. As a Church of England school, Christianity is central to our curriculum, but we affirm and explore the beliefs and practices of other faiths and worldviews represented within our community.

Assessment, Reporting and Recording

Assessment in RE follows the Buckinghamshire syllabus and Diocesan frameworks. Teachers use formative and summative approaches to evaluate pupils' progress in both learning about and learning from religion and worldviews. Pupils are encouraged to reflect on their own learning through self-assessment. Outcomes are recorded as "working towards", "at expected", or "greater depth".

Monitoring and Evaluation

The RE Lead monitors teaching and learning through book looks, lesson visits and pupil voice, reporting termly to SLT and governors. RE is evaluated against the school's Christian vision and the expectations of the SIAMS Evaluation Framework. Monitoring ensures curriculum coverage, progression and quality of teaching, and identifies CPD needs. The RE Lead keeps abreast of national developments such as the National Content Standard for RE (2023).

Visits and Visitors

RE is enriched through educational visits and guest visitors. We maintain a close relationship with St George's Church and encourage visits to a range of places of worship to develop understanding and respect for faith communities.

Withdrawal from Religious Education and Collective Worship

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 also exercise their right to withdraw from teaching the subject.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from RE on the grounds that they wish to provide their own RE. This provision will be the parents' responsibility. This right of withdrawal exists for all pupils in all types of school, including schools with and without a religious designation. Parents also have the right to withdraw their child from part of RE and can do so without giving any explanation.

When a request to withdraw is received by St George's, the request will be granted without delay. Written and verbal requests are acceptable however, we would ask for verbal requests to be followed up in writing. The school may offer to speak with the parent to try to understand the basis for the withdrawal but only after the request has been granted. The school will make clear that the parent's right to withdraw their child has been granted and that parents are not required to give reasons for their request.

Teachers also have the right to withdraw from the teaching of RE. However, this does not apply to teachers who have been specifically employed to teach or lead RE. If a teacher wishes to withdraw from the teaching of RE, a letter requesting this must be submitted to the head of the school and its chair of governors. If a teacher withdraws from the teaching of RE, the school must still make provisions for the pupils to receive their entitlement to RE.

RE at St George's is educational, not confessional, and we hope all parents and staff will feel comfortable with the inclusive approach we adopt.