



Religious Education Policy

This policy was last reviewed:	Autumn 2025
This policy will be reviewed again:	Autumn 2027
This policy will be reviewed by:	Quality of Education Committee
Statutory policy?:	Yes/No
Source:	Governing Body

Our School Vision

We aim to enable every child to flourish in their potential as a child of God, to achieve without limits and to become an agent of change. We are committed to fostering good mental health and wellbeing for our whole school community. We are completely inclusive and distinctively Christian.

Religious Education Policy

St Richard's is a voluntary aided primary school founded by the Church of England to provide education for the children of Ham. The provision of RE is in accordance with the Trust Deed of the School. The Governors in consultation with the Head teacher have adopted the Southwark Diocesan Board for Education (SDBE) scheme for teaching RE.

Vision Statement

We aim to provide an education that nurtures and inspires our children to achieve without limits; develop and grow in all aspects of our Faith ID and courageously embrace the world we live in. As a community made in God's image, we choose to be **Bold, Bright and Beautiful**. Through RE we hope the children will feel confident to ask big questions and think deeply, not only about what they have learnt but also about their own opinions and beliefs. We adhere to the Church of England's Statement of Entitlement to ensure our children receive high quality lessons delivered in an atmosphere of respect. We want the children to flourish through the RE curriculum and become Religiously Literate; being able to hold a balanced and well-informed conversation about Religion and beliefs. We want the children to build their knowledge and develop their own opinions and to become 'courageous advocates' pioneering change for good, not only in the school but also in the local community.

Aims of Religious Education (RE)

- To develop a strong knowledge and understanding of Christianity and provide a firm foundation in the Christian faith.
- To develop each child's understanding and respect for the beliefs, values, and practices of other major world faiths.
- To enhance spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development, encouraging a reflective approach to life and human experiences.
- To foster children's own beliefs and values, promoting self-reflection and personal growth.
- To enable children to be confident in asking big questions and exploring their own beliefs.
- To develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgments about faith and life issues.
- To help children take part in discussions about religions and beliefs in a well-informed, empathetic, and respectful way.

Objectives

To develop an understanding of the Christian faith through the study of:

- The Bible, its use and history
- The life and teachings of Jesus
- The significant events in the history of the Christian church
- The major Christian festivals and celebrations
- The nature of the Christian community, its places of worship and the means by which it expresses its beliefs.

To develop a knowledge and understanding of other world faiths, including those which may be represented in the school.

To foster children's feelings of awe, wonder, joy and mystery.

To encourage positive attitudes and values to life and the community.

Organisation of teaching RE

- In line with SDBE recommendations children in EYFS learn through a curriculum of reflective play, story, and participating in festivals and celebrations. KS1 and KS2 learn RE for 60 minutes per week
- The school uses the Southwark Diocesan Board for Education (SDBE) syllabus 2024 for teaching RE from the Foundation Stage to KS2.
- In RE lessons, we focus on 3 strands of learning: Theology (What people believe about God), Philosophy (Discussing beliefs and questions around meaning and purpose) and Sociology (How people live because of their faith). The children explore these themes through the key words: Believing, Thinking and Living.
- Resources are stored in the topic boxes outside Y1 The KS2 library has an RE section

Skills and Attitudes

Many skills in R.E. are cross-curricular. Skills and attitudes which we develop in R.E. include:

- Observation skills
- Evaluative skills
- Communication skills
- Reflective skills
- Reference skills
- Analytical skills

By developing these skills our children will become more open minded and empathetic towards others and be able to evaluate their own religion or non-religious standpoint. Above all we want to develop a culture of love and respect where children can feel safe to ask big questions about life and faith. We want to give children the knowledge and understanding to discuss topics about Religion and beliefs in a way that is informed, balanced and respectful.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

Religious Education plays a vital role in supporting pupils' spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development. Through RE lessons, PSHE, and Collective Worship, pupils are encouraged to explore their own beliefs and values, engage with a variety of viewpoints, and appreciate the significance of faith and spirituality in people's lives. The subject also fosters a strong sense of community and belonging, promoting respect and understanding of the rich diversity within both local and global contexts. Furthermore, it reinforces shared values such as freedom, democracy, and the equality of all individuals. Each classroom provides a dedicated reflection area, offering pupils a quiet space to think, question, and grow in their personal understanding.

Assessment

- Assessment for learning is an ongoing process for all children, teachers record assessments on a central spread sheet every term.
- Pupils in EYFS, KS1 and 2 are assessed using the “I can” statements from the SDBE units of work.
- Pupils in EYFS and KS1 use a big book to record their responses to RE lessons.

Monitoring and evaluating

- RE is monitored regularly through book and planning scrutiny, lesson observations and pupil voice discussions.
- Parent surveys include RE
- The school curriculum plan is reviewed annually and the units from the RE scheme of work will be reviewed as part of this process.
- All of the above measures contribute to the school’s self evaluation systems

Roles and responsibilities

- The RE subject leader is Siân Murphy / Jolene Goveia
- The RE governor is Rev. Simon Coupland

The right of withdrawal from RE

At St Richard's Church of England Primary and Nursery School we wish to be an inclusive community but recognise that parents and carers have the legal right to withdraw their children religious education on the grounds of conscience. We would ask any parent considering this to contact the head teacher to discuss any concerns or anxieties about the policy, provision and practice of religious education at St Richard's School.

Link to other policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with the [Collective Worship Policy](#) and our [Equality and Diversity Policy](#).