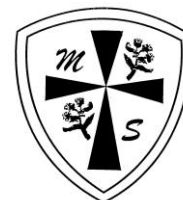


Marcham Church of England Primary School
Policy Statement for Religious Education



Context and Ethos

In Marcham Church of England Primary School, Religious Education (RE) plays an important role in expressing the Christian vision of the school. RE reflects the ethos and values that are held and promotes understanding of people of all faiths and none. RE has the same high status as any other subject and contributes to the overall development of our pupils from all backgrounds and traditions. We do so in a way which allows pupils and teachers to understand the Christian traditions, the relationship between the school, the church and the local community and, importantly, what it means to be a Church school in a multi-faith and global context. The policy and practice are founded on the Christian values of love, respect, trust and friendship and is supported by appropriate knowledge.

The Legal Position

Every maintained school in England must provide a basic curriculum (RE, sex and relationship education and the National Curriculum). This includes provision for RE for all registered pupils at the school, except for those withdrawn by their parents (see paragraph below). The school, in accordance with its Trust Deed, provides religious education for all pupils registered at the school. Following advice from the Oxford Diocesan Board of Education, the governors decided that religious education in our school should be based upon the Locally Agreed Syllabus, (*the Oxfordshire Agreed Syllabus 2023-28: "Challenging RE"*) while also reflecting the requirements of the Statement of Entitlement for Religious Education published by the Education Office of the Church of England in February 2019. The statutory section 48 Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) inspection will evaluate the way that RE contributes to the Christian character of the school and the teaching of RE will reflect this requirement.

The purpose and aims and of Religious Education

The purpose of RE is to teach children about the religious and non-religious worldviews that they will encounter in modern Britain and to enable them to engage in meaningful and considered dialogue with those of all faiths and none. This is religious literacy. Therefore, the aims of RE in our school are:

- To know about and understand Christianity as a diverse global living faith through the exploration of core beliefs using an approach that critically engages with biblical text.
- To gain knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews appreciating diversity, continuity and change within the religions and worldviews being studied.
- To engage with challenging questions of meaning and purpose raised by human existence and experience.
 - To recognise the concept of religion and its continuing influence on Britain's cultural heritage and in the lives of individuals and societies in different times, cultures and places.
 - To explore their own religious, spiritual and philosophical ways of living, believing and thinking.

(These are taken from the Statement of Entitlement and embedded in the Locally Agreed Syllabus.)

Curriculum and planning

The Religious Education curriculum is based on two key aspects: learning about religion and learning from religion. *"Challenging RE" has four main aims for RE.*

To enable pupils to:

- 1. understand the nature, role and influence of different religions, traditions, beliefs and lifestyles in the world;*
- 2. pursue personal quest for meaning, purpose and value;*

3. *formulate reasoned opinions/arguments in relation to controversial issues and truth claims;*
4. *develop understanding of and respect for different beliefs and lifestyles.*

Our RE programme promotes the teaching of these aims through the learning process of pupils' experience and self-concept, religious experience and concepts, and universal human experience and concepts. It also addresses the Knowledge, skills and understanding will be taught through the areas of religions and beliefs, experience and opportunities and framework questions.

At Marcham CE Primary School, all pupils will learn about Christianity, other world faiths and non-religious world views. In addition to Christianity, Judaism will be taught in Key Stage 1, and Islam, Hinduism and Humanism added in Key Stage 2. We acknowledge the importance of visits to places of worship and visitors who are believers, reflection, creativity, discussion and communication in the exploration of the aims of the RE syllabus. We are keen to explore these themes through enquiry and questioning and follow the RE Oxfordshire Agreed Syllabus, which is enquiry led.

The time dedicated to RE is separate from the time given to Collective Worship and is set between 5% and 10% of the school year.

Teaching, Learning and Achievement

Learning will be organised to encourage the development of attitudes such as self-awareness, respect for all, open-mindedness, appreciation and wonder, as well as providing opportunities to engage appropriately with Fundamental British Values. All faiths and worldviews are treated respectfully and efforts made to engage in age-appropriate, meaningful discussion.

A variety of resources, styles, and techniques will be used as appropriate to enable all pupils to make progress in RE regardless of their starting points, ability or background. Students will engage in activities which will also enable teachers to assess what they have learnt. Records kept will include information of pupils' experiences and judgements about their levels of attainment and progress, as well as being used to inform planning. The RE subject leader and Senior Leadership Team (SLT) will monitor teaching and learning in RE in accordance with school policy. The headteacher and governors will ensure that adequate monitoring takes place and that the impact of such activity is assessed. Resources will be kept up to date and will include source materials where appropriate (eg. Bibles, visitors, artefacts). They will be sensitively treated with respect by all staff.

We have a close relationship with the local parish church (All Saints, Marcham) and its staff, and we value this relationship and what it adds to the pupils' experiences.

Withdrawal from religious education

We hope that all parents and teachers will feel comfortable with the type of Religious Education being taught at this school. However, parents may withdraw their children from all or any part of Religious Education (in accordance with Schedule 19 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1988) and teachers can exercise their right to withdraw from teaching the subject. Parents who wish to withdraw their children are requested to provide written notification to this effect and provide suitable activities for their children and the school, of course, will keep the children safe.

This policy will be reviewed every two years, in line with the school's procedures.

Date Agreed with Governing Body: 6th June 2024

Date of next review: Summer 2026

Signed..... Chair of Committee or Chair of Governors

Signed..... Headteacher