

Egerton Church of England Primary School

Together, we inspire, nurture and thrive



Perseverance **Compassion** **Respect** **Honesty** **Forgiveness** **Hope**

Religious Education Policy

Key Contact Personnel in School

Mrs Julia Head

Headteacher

Miss Kellie Chaplin

RE Subject Leader

Date written: **May 2026**

Date agreed and ratified by Governing Body: **May 2026**

Date of next review: **May 2027**

This policy will be reviewed at least annually.



The Diocese of
Canterbury

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

School Vision

Egerton inspires joy in life by cherishing childhood within a rich and creative learning journey. Our Christian values influence all decisions enabling our community to flourish. We nurture everyone to reach their full potential as God intends, mind, body and soul.

Introduction

At Egerton Church of England Primary School, pupils and their families can expect a high-quality religious education (RE) curriculum that is rich and varied, enabling learners to acquire a thorough knowledge and understanding of a range of faiths and world views. As a church school, the teaching of Christianity is at the heart of our RE curriculum. Through the Understanding Christianity resource, the use of an enquiry approach engages with significant theological concepts and the pupil's own understanding of the world as part of their wider religious literacy. Using the Kent Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education as recommended by the Diocese of Canterbury we learn about other religions and world views, fostering respect for them. Links with our Christian values and vision, and support for pupil's spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development are intrinsic to our RE curriculum and have a significant impact on learners. We provide a wide range of opportunities for learners to understand and to make links between the beliefs, practices and value systems of the range of faiths and world views studied as well as develop their spiritual oracy in relation to the world around them.

Aims and objectives

As stated in the Church of England Statement of Entitlement for Religious Education our school aims for all pupils:

- 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.

Rights Respecting School

Egerton Church of England Primary School is a Rights Respecting School and is working towards the silver award.

Rights Respecting schools teach children about the rights that they have and the key principles inherent in upholding children's rights. Rights Respecting schools take a whole-school approach to embedding the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) at the centre of their ethos and learning. Placing equality, dignity, respect, non-discrimination, education and participation at their centre means that schools ensure a balanced commitment to children's wellbeing, as well as to their attainment and achievement.

Relevant UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) articles include:

Article 13: Children have the right to share freely with others what they learn, think and feel, by talking, drawing, writing or in any other way unless it harms other people.

Article 14: Children can choose their own thoughts, opinions and religion, but this should not stop other people from enjoying their rights. Parents can guide children so that as they grow up, they learn to properly use this right.

Article 29: Children's education should help them fully develop their personalities, talents and abilities. It should teach them to understand their own rights, and to respect other people's rights, cultures and differences. It should help them to live peacefully and protect the environment.

Article 30: Children have the right to use their own language, culture and religion - even if these are not shared by most people in the country where they live.

Curriculum for Religious Education

RE is an academic subject that has a high profile in our school curriculum. It is a priority for senior leaders, who ensure that the teaching, learning and resourcing of RE is comparable with other curriculum subjects.

This means that the RE curriculum:

- is intrinsic to the outworking of our distinctive Christian vision in enabling all pupils to flourish. In addition, it contributes to British values and to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- is delivered in an objective, critical and pluralistic manner to engage and challenge all pupils through an exploration of core concepts and questions. Lessons provide meaningful and informed dialogue with a range of religions and worldviews.
- reflects a good balance between the disciplines of theology, philosophy and human science, to enable pupils to develop their religious literacy*
**Religious Literacy: Helping children and young people hold balanced and well-informed conversations about religion and belief. (Key Principles of a balanced curriculum in RE.)*
- enables pupils to acquire a rich, deep knowledge and understanding of Christian belief and practice, including the ways in which it is unique and diverse, whilst engaging with biblical texts and theological ideas.
- provides opportunities for pupils to understand the role of foundational texts, beliefs, rituals, and practices and how they help to form identity in a range of religions and worldviews.
- supports the development of other curriculum areas and other general educational abilities such as literacy, empathy and the ability to express thoughts, feelings and personal beliefs.
- encompasses the full range of abilities to ensure that all flourish academically, using a wide range of teaching and learning strategies which consider the task, outcome, resource, support and pupil grouping as appropriate to pupils' needs
- offers tasks that are age appropriate, challenging and sufficiently demanding to stimulate and engage all pupils, whilst extending the most able and providing support for those who need it.
- ensures that all pupils' contributions are valued in RE as they draw on their own experiences and beliefs.

Curriculum balance and time

Parents and pupils are entitled to expect that, in Church schools, Christianity should be the majority religion studied in each year group and should be at least 50% of curriculum time. Sufficient dedicated curriculum time, meeting explicitly RE objectives, however organised, should be committed to the delivery of RE. This should aim to be close to 10% but must be no less than 5% in key stages 1-4.

	AUTUMN		SPRING		SUMMER	
EYFS	CREATION Why is the word 'God' so important to Christians?	OLD TESTAMENT STORIES Which stories are special and why? INCARNATION Why do Christians perform Nativity plays at Christmas?	NEW TESTAMENT STORIES Which stories are special and why?	SALVATION Why do Christians put a cross in an Easter garden?	WORLD FAITH STORIES Which stories are special and why?	WORLD FAITH STORIES Which stories are special and why?
Year 1	GOD What do Christians believe that God is like?	INCARNATION Why does Christmas matter to Christians? <i>CORE / DIGGING DEEPER</i>	GOSPEL What is the good news that Jesus brings? <i>CORE / DIGGING DEEPER</i>	SALVATION Why does Easter matter to Christians? <i>CORE LEARNING</i>	JUDAISM Who is Jewish and what do they believe? (Part 1)	JUDAISM Who is Jewish and what do they believe? (Part 2)
Year 2	CREATION Who made the world?	UNIVERSAL How should we care for others and the world and why does it matter?	HUMANISM Who are Humanists and how do they live?	SALVATION Why does Easter matter to Christians? <i>DIGGING DEEPER</i>	ISLAM Who is a Muslim and what do they believe? (Part 1)	ISLAM Who is a Muslim and what do they believe? (Part 2)
Year 3	PEOPLE OF GOD What is it like to follow God?	INCARNATION What is the Trinity? <i>CORE LEARNING</i>	SIKHI What is important for Sikh people?	SIKHI How do Sikh people worship and celebrate?	KINGDOM OF GOD When Jesus left, what was the impact of Pentecost?	HUMANISM Who are Humanists and what do they value?
Year 4	CREATION What do Christians learn from the Creation story?	INCARNATION What is the Trinity? <i>DIGGING DEEPER</i>	GOSPEL What kind of a world did Jesus want?	SALVATION Why do Christians call the day Jesus died 'Good Friday'? <i>CORE / DIGGING DEEPER</i>	HINDU DHARMA What does it mean to be a Hindu in Britain today? (Part 1)	HINDU DHARMA What does it mean to be a Hindu in Britain today? (Part 2)
Year 5	GOD What does it mean if God is loving and holy?	INCARNATION Was Jesus the Messiah? <i>CORE LEARNING</i>	PEOPLE OF GOD How can following God bring freedom and justice?	SALVATION What did Jesus do to save human beings?	ISLAM What does it mean to be a Muslim in Britain today? (Part 1)	ISLAM What does it mean to be a Muslim in Britain today? (Part 2)
Year 6	CREATION Creation and science: conflicting or complementary?	GOSPEL What would Jesus do?	HUMANISM What does it mean to be a Humanist in Britain today?	JUDAISM What does it mean to be Jewish in Britain today?	UNIVERSAL What can be done to reduce racism? Can religion help?	KINGDOM OF GOD What kind of king is Jesus?

Schools must take note that the RE entitlement is totally separate from requirements for collective worship. Collective worship must not be considered curriculum time for RE or the teaching of RE.

Teaching and learning

Learning activities provide fully for the needs of all pupils, so that they develop a wide range of skills including enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and reflection. RE lessons provide a safe space to explore their own religious, spiritual and/or philosophical ways of seeing, living and thinking, believing and belonging. They provide opportunities to engage in meaningful and informed dialogue with those of all religions and worldviews.

Pupils experience opportunities to learn and express themselves through an enquiry-based style of learning by:

- Posing and discussing 'big' and challenging questions
- Reading and critically analysing texts.
- Interpreting information from different sources.
- Seeking information for themselves in libraries and on computers.
- 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.

- Taking part in outdoor learning.
- Taking time for reflection.

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. All questions, views, and opinions are treated with sensitivity and respect.

Teachers establish clear links between elements of religious belief and practice and aspects of the children's own lives. 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.

Cross-curricular links

Religious education supports the development of general educational abilities such as literacy, empathy and the ability to express thoughts, feelings and personal beliefs. RE also makes a major contribution to pupils' SMSC development. It addresses issues which arise in a range of subjects, such as English, art, drama and history, geography, computing, music as well as personal, social and emotional education and citizenship.

Health and Safety

Health and safety issues may arise in religious education on a number of occasions for example, when pupils:

- Handle artefacts.
- Consume food.
- Visit places of worship.

Teachers will conform to guidelines in the school's health and safety policy in these circumstances.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

Assessment in religious education will:

- Involve identifying suitable opportunities in schemes of work such as Understanding Christianity.
- Be directly related to the expectations of the Kent 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.
- Employ well defined criteria for marking and assessment which identify progress and achievement as well as effort, following the school's marking policy.
- Include pupil self-assessment.
- 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.

Role of the RE subject leader

The subject leader will:

- Ensure that all pupils receive their legal entitlement of religious education.
- Ensure RE provision reflects the Church of England Statement of Entitlement.
- Produce and regularly review a subject policy to ensure that it remains up to date.
- Ensure all teachers know what should be taught in religious education, what resources are available, and what standards of attainment are expected at the end of each Key Stage.
- Monitor and review the implementation of policy and units of work.
- Monitor the quality and effectiveness of teaching and learning in RE and pupils' progress and standards.
- Ensure there are rigorous assessment systems in place to enable teachers and pupils to gauge progress and attainment in RE.
- Monitor, analyse and question RE assessments carried out by staff.
- Liaise with the HT and Governors to feedback on the monitoring and impact of RE across the school.
- Support colleagues by sharing new ideas and pedagogy, to help develop their subject confidence and expertise through CPD opportunities and support sessions.
- Seek opportunities to share effective practice locally and regionally and engage in professional development for themselves and other staff members.
- Oversee the RE budget and monitor RE resources to ensure they are kept and stored respectfully and replaced where necessary.
- Ensure there is a school protocol, that covers safeguarding procedures and a suitability process, for when visitors are invited into RE lessons.

Resources

Religious education will be funded to enable a range of resources on different religions to be purchased, such as books for teachers, pupils and the library; posters, CDs, DVDs and artefacts. The school makes use of guidance material produced by the Diocese. Funding will also allow, where possible, visits to different places of worship and provide INSET for staff. All resources will be listed, stored, be easily accessible and kept in good condition. Resource banks will be available for both staff and pupils on all major religions and world views as appropriate.

Legal Requirements

Religious Education must be provided for all registered pupils in full time education except those withdrawn at their parents' request (or their own request if aged 18 or over).

(DfE Circular 1 / 94, paragraphs 44 & 49, and Non-Statutory Guidance 2010 page 28)

The law relating to Religious Education for pupils who are not yet in key stage 1 is different from that relating to subjects of the National Curriculum. As Religious Education must be taught to 'all registered pupils at the school', it includes pupils in reception classes, but not those in nursery classes or play groups.

The school must comply with any request from a parent to withdraw their child and parents are not required to give their reasons for wanting to do so. However, in view of the Christian ethos and

distinctive Christian character of our school, we would hope that all children admitted will participate fully in RE, and that anyone wishing to withdraw their child would discuss this with the headteacher before making this decision.