




# St Denys CE Infant School

## Religious Education Policy

Date policy last reviewed:

Signed by:

	Headteacher	Date:	February 2025
---	-------------	-------	---------------

## Introduction

Introduction RE is central to the purpose of St Denys CE Infant School because as a church school we see that the Christian faith informs all aspects of our life together and commits us to a search for truth.

RE in St Denys explores how individuals and communities make meaning and sense of their lives through the major religions of the world.

It enables pupils to know about, understand and respond to the important and ultimate questions of life. RE is taught in such a way that it inspires pupils to explore, develop and affirm their own faith and values and have respect for the faith, beliefs and values of others. It is not the practice of this school to preach to or seek to convert children. Values education permeates the RE curriculum at St Denys.

This policy is implemented within the context and spirit of the Vision Statement of St Denys CE Infant School which values all members of the community equally and respects them as individuals.

**“Grow in wisdom. Live Well. Love God. Love Others.”**

Our Religious Education policy is underpinned by the values of the school:



Religious Education is unique in the school curriculum in that it is neither a core subject nor a foundation subject. The 1988 Education Act states that 'Religious Education has equal standing in relation to core subjects of the National Curriculum in that it is compulsory for all registered pupils.

The Church of England Education Office publish a 'Statement of Entitlement' for RE which has been considered in the formation of this policy.

[RE-Statement-of-Entitlement-for-Church-Schools.pdf](#)

## Aims

At St Denys, RE supports and strengthens the vision, ethos and values which are at the heart of what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. The importance placed on the development of the whole child spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected in the RE curriculum. Specifically, RE aims to enable pupils of all abilities and stages of development 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.
- Gain knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews appreciating diversity, continuity and change within the religions and worldviews being studied.
- Engage with challenging questions of meaning and purpose raised by human existence and experience.
- Be able to articulate, with confidence, their ideas about religion, beliefs and spirituality – and then to change their minds, if they choose to do so.
- 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.
- Explore their own religious, spiritual and philosophical ways of living, believing and thinking.
- Develop an understanding of what it means to be committed to a religious tradition.
- Develop investigative and research skills and to enable them to make reasoned judgements about religious issues.
- Have respect for other peoples' views and to celebrate the diversity in society.

## Legal Requirements

RE at St Denys will meet legal requirements by:

- Its inclusion in the curriculum of all registered pupils. In primary school, this is a requirement for all pupils in Foundation Stage to Year 6.
- Reflecting the fact that religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, while taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religious traditions represented in Great Britain.
- Teaching RE in accordance with Leicestershire Locally Agreed Syllabus and Leicester Diocesan guidelines.

## Teaching and Learning

The curriculum for RE aims to ensure that all pupils:

### ***1. Know about and understand a range of religions and worldviews, so that they can:***

- Describe, explain and analyse beliefs and practices, recognising the diversity which exists within and between communities and amongst individuals.
- Identify, investigate and respond to questions posed, and responses offered by some of the sources of wisdom found in religions and worldviews.

- Appreciate and appraise the nature, significance and impact of different ways of life and ways of expressing meaning.

***2. Express ideas and insights about the nature, significance and impact of religions and worldviews, so that they can:***

- Explain reasonably their ideas about how beliefs, practices and forms of expression influence individuals and communities.
- Express with increasing sensitivity their personal reflections and critical responses to questions and teachings about identity, diversity, meaning and value, including ethical issues

***3. Gain and deploy the skills needed to engage seriously with religions and worldviews, so that they can:***

- Find out about and investigate key concepts and questions of belonging, meaning, purpose and truth, responding creatively.
- Enquire into what enables different individuals and communities to live together respectfully for the wellbeing of all.
- Articulate beliefs, values and commitments clearly in order to explain why they may be important in their own and other people's lives.

**Approaches to teaching Religious Education**

To make religious education a lively, active subject we employ a variety of teaching methods including reading, direct instruction, inquiry, discussion, recording, group work, visiting speakers, trips, film, art, music, role play and drama, the use of artefacts, pictures, stories and the use of periods of stillness and reflection.

We visit St Denys Church regularly and work closely with our vicar, Foundation Governors and other members of the parish to enhance and deepen our RE lessons. We plan opportunities for our pupils to encounter other local faith communities through visits to places of worship or from members of faiths other than Christian.

**Subject Leadership**

1. The RE subject leader will support and monitor the subject and will receive an adequate budget to do this, with support of senior leadership.
2. The RE subject leader will ensure that their subject knowledge and expertise are kept up to date by means of regular training and network meetings.
3. The RE subject leader and senior leadership team will ensure that staff receive adequate training in the teaching and assessment of RE.
4. The RE subject leader will regularly monitor the quality of RE teaching across the school.
5. The RE subject leader will liaise with the governor who holds responsibility for RE and they will report regularly to the governing body on the RE curriculum.
6. The RE subject leader, headteacher and governors will ensure that the principles set out the Church of England's Statement of Entitlement for RE are implemented.

## **Reporting to Parents**

On an annual basis, the school reports to parents on attainment and progress in RE based on teachers' annual summative assessment judgement.

## **The right of withdrawal from Religious Education**

At St Denys CE Infant School, we are committed to the principles of inclusion and hospitality to people of all faiths and none. We recognise that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from Religious Education on the grounds of conscience. We would ask any parent considering this to contact the headteacher to discuss any concerns or questions they may have about the teaching of Religious Education at St Denys.