



Trinity St Mary's Church of England Primary School

Religious Education Policy

Summer Term 2026

"Many Hearts Make A School"



Religious Education (RE) Intent Statement

High quality RE is an essential part of a rich and broad education and is the entitlement of every pupil. RE makes a distinctive contribution to the school curriculum by developing pupils' knowledge and understanding of religion, religious beliefs, practices, language and traditions and their influence on individuals, communities, societies and cultures. It supports the thoughtful and reflective development of pupils' own beliefs and values. It enables pupils to consider and respond to a range of important questions related to their own spiritual development, the development of values and attitudes and fundamental questions concerning the meaning and purpose of life. RE equips pupils for life by helping them to engage in balanced and informed conversations about religion and belief.

Christian Values

As a church school, the teaching of Christianity is rooted in the person and work of Jesus Christ within the wider context of the story of God's relationship with humanity as set out in the Bible. In addition, the learning about a range of religions and worldviews fosters respect and understanding of the beliefs of others.

Our RE curriculum both supports and provides our children with a safe environment where they feel confident to share their ideas, opinions and beliefs and through open discussion, encourages children to widen their experiences and their understanding of their own role within the school community and the wider world.

Aims

Through our RE teaching we enable 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 texts
- to gain knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews appreciating diversity, continuity and change with 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 religions 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

RE at Trinity St. Mary's C of E Primary School enhances pupils':

- awareness and understanding of religions and beliefs, teachings, practices and forms of expression
- ability to reflect on, consider, analyse, interpret and evaluate issues of truth, belief, faith and ethics and to communicate their responses.

RE at our school offers opportunities for personal reflection and spiritual development.

RE Lessons

RE is taught weekly and is treated as a core academic subject. It is delivered in an objective, critical, and pluralistic way, encouraging pupils to explore various religions and worldviews through philosophy, as well as the human and social sciences.

At Trinity St. Mary's C of E Primary School, our RE curriculum follows an enquiry-based approach, with lessons planned to foster curiosity and critical thinking. Teachers develop their medium-term plans in line with the Essex Agreed Syllabus and are supported by the resource Understanding Christianity, ensuring a comprehensive and engaging learning experience for all pupils.

The statutory basis of the agreed syllabus

RE is, by law, locally determined. Trinity St. Mary's C of E Primary School follows the Diocese of Chelmsford's Agreed Syllabus for RE. It is a requirement on schools and governing bodies to ensure that all children gain their statutory entitlement to RE through all years of compulsory education (Education Act 1988). The requirement to teach RE does not apply to nursery classes but does to those of statutory school age.

Assessment and Recording in RE

At Trinity St. Mary's C of E Primary School, pupils' progress in Religious Education (R.E.) is measured against the expected outcomes outlined in the Essex Agreed Syllabus for R.E. Class teachers make professional judgements based on evidence, and each pupil is assessed as working at one of three levels: Working Towards, Expected, or Greater Depth in relation to the learning outcomes for each unit. Individual progress is tracked over time to inform planning and identify pupils who may require additional support or further challenge.

Progress in R.E. is reported annually to parents and holds a prominent place in each child's end-of-year report, reflecting our commitment to the spiritual, moral, and cultural development of every child.

Right of Withdrawal from RE

The 1944 Education Act established the right of withdrawal of pupils from RE and this right remains unchanged. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from RE and pupils aged over 18 have the right to withdraw themselves from RE. As RE is central to the life and identity of Church of England schools, the Headteacher will meet with parents/carers to discuss any reasons they might have for exercising this right.

Review

This policy will be reviewed in Summer 2028.