



Religious Education

Policy

Date: Autumn 2023

Review: Autumn 2025

**EARLEY ST.PETER’S C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**POLICY FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

(1)Aim

The aim of this policy is to explain how Religious Education (R.E.) is organised at Earley St. Peter’s School.

# (2)Introduction

As a Church of England School, we believe that R.E. plays a vital role in forming strong foundations with regards to children’s social, moral, cultural and spiritual development. We acknowledge our Christian foundation whilst valuing the contributions of other faiths.

At Earley St Peter’s, our school vision is:

**Building Strong Foundations for the Future**

The right foundations allow our school community to flourish and achieve their full potential.

We hear the parable of the wise man and the foolish man.  Better to build your house on a rock than on the sand. (Matthew 7.24-27).

With Jesus as a role model, we strive to develop the Christian values of

***Kindness***

***Respect***

***Honesty***

***Forgiveness***

***Service***

We want pupils to:

* **Be curious and creative**
* **Be confident and resilient**
* **Know and remember more**

**(3) Key Points**

# (i) The Legal Position

Every academy under the terms of their funding agreement in England must provide a basic curriculum including 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 This includes provision for RE for all registered pupils at the school, except for those withdrawn by their parents. 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 Wokingham Agreed Syllabuswhile 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 (SIAMS) inspection will evaluate RE and the way that it expresses the Christian vision of the school and look for evidence of progress and attainment. Religious education has the same status and importance as any other subject and, as such, the same high standards are applied to this as to other subjects.

# Aims of RE teaching

The purpose of RE is to teach children about the religious and non-religious world-views that they will encounter in modern Britain and enable them to engage in meaningful and considered dialogue with those of all faiths and none. This is religious literacy.

We believe R.E. provides children with opportunities to:

* 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.
* 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 living, believing and thinking.
* develop their sense of identity and belonging so preparing them for life in a multi faith and multi-cultural society;
* develop skills of enquiry and response;
* develop their oracy skills through discussion of complex ideas;
* reflect on their own experiences and to explore their own beliefs and values.

R.E. does not seek to place religious beliefs on children or to undermine their own beliefs by promoting one faith tradition over another. Within the school, R.E. is separate and distinct from Collective Worship.

# (ii) Scheme of work

The school follows Oxford Diocesan Board of Education (ODBE) recommendation that Church Aided schools follow the Wokingham Agreed Syllabus, which is available for all Wokingham LA schools.

The RE curriculum at Earley St Peter’s CE Primary School, has been approved by the governors. Christianity is taught in every year group, with key concepts revisited on a spiral curriculum. **At least 50% of the time is devoted to Christianity**. Other religions are covered according to the syllabus.

In line with current Oxford Diocese recommendations, units of work which cover an area of Christianity are planned using the ‘Understanding Christianity’ resource. This resource has been written to cover all areas of the Agreed Syllabus relating to Christianity. All other units of work are planned using the ‘Discovery’ scheme of work. This scheme has been written to follow the Agreed Syllabus and involves studying Judaism, Sikhism, Hinduism and Islam. The units of work about Islam are optional within the Agreed Syllabus, but have been included, as this reflects the faith background of many of our pupils. Each term, the scheme outlines units of work based on key questions and learning objectives.

# (iv) Assessment

During the course of the academic year pupils carry out a variety of tasks to provide a good evidence base of pupil attainment. This is used to contribute to a school portfolio with samples of R.E. assessments, tasks and pupil work. Teacher assessments are recorded on Target Tracker.

# (v) Monitoring

During the year, it is intended that the R.E. subject leader should monitor learning by looking at pupil work, interviewing pupils and conducting learning walks.

# (vi) Scaffolding

All children are entitled to access the R.E. curriculum. At Earley St Peter’s, we recognise that in some lessons, pupils will require additional support in order to reach their learning potential. When scaffolding, we consider the following: the impact of adult support, pupil prior experience, vocabulary, worked examples and Success Criteria.

# (vii) Teaching and resources

* The school follows the recommended time allocation for R.E., which is 1 hour per week for Key Stage 1 and 1 ¼ hours for Key Stage 2.
* A range of resources are used: video and audio clips, books, artefacts, music, drama and ICT.
* From time to time, visits to places of worship occur and visitors are invited to talk about their faith.
* Once or twice a year pupils participate in sessions run by R.E. Inspired, which cover some of the Christian aspects of the R.E. scheme of work.
* We believe that good R.E. teaching draws upon the children’s own experiences and presents religions as living faiths.
* Following discussion with the Headteacher, parents have the right to withdraw their children from R.E. lessons.