"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing"
1 Thessalonians 5:11

Thatcham Park C.E. Primary & Nursery School,

Religious Education and World Views Policy

At Thatcham Park Church of England Primary and Nursery School, Religious Education plays a central role in expressing and living out our Christian vision. Through RE, pupils develop religious literacy, enabling them to engage thoughtfully and respectfully with a diverse range of faiths and worldviews. RE contributes significantly to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and supports them in understanding both their own beliefs and those of others within modern Britain and the wider world.

Our Christian values underpin our ethos; every child is valued and encouraged to achieve their full potential. Every member of our school community is encouraged to respect and value each other. We want our children to learn to understand and respect our common humanity, diversity and differences so that they can go on to form the effective, fulfilling relationships that are an essential part of life and learning.

Religious Education is taught according to the current Pan Berkshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education. We use the Oxford Diocesan Board of Education scheme to support our curriculum provision. Each year group has three units focused on Christianity, two focused on a second worldview and a philosophy unit that gives the opportunity to teachers to revisit learning about a range of worldviews, including Christianity. An overview of the scheme is available.

Every maintained school must provide Religious Education for all registered pupils, except those withdrawn by their parents in accordance with legislation.
As a Voluntary Controlled Church of England school, Religious Education is taught in accordance with the Pan Berkshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education while also reflecting the Church of England Statement of Entitlement (2019).
Religious Education is a core element of our curriculum and holds the same status as other curriculum subjects.

Status	Version	Date Approved	Next Review
Approved	4	November 2026	October 2027

The effectiveness of Religious Education contributes to SIAMS inspection judgements regarding the school's Christian vision and educational provision.

Religious Education enables pupils to explore life's big questions, engage with theology, philosophy and human sciences, and develop wisdom, hope, community and dignity. Through RE, pupils are equipped to live well together in a diverse society and to contribute positively as active global citizens.

The school aims to work in partnership with parents so that all pupils can benefit from the opportunities Religious Education provides for developing religious literacy, respect, understanding and thoughtful dialogue in a diverse society

Through Religious Education, we aim to:

- Develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of Christianity as a diverse global living faith, alongside a range of religious and non-religious worldviews, recognising their complexity, diversity, continuity and change.
- Develop religious literacy through the use of theological, philosophical and human and social science approaches, enabling pupils to investigate, interpret and evaluate beliefs, practices and sources of authority.
- Engage pupils with significant questions of meaning, purpose, truth and identity, encouraging them to think deeply about themselves, others and the world around them.
- Support pupils in exploring and articulating their own beliefs, values and worldviews while respecting the rights and perspectives of others.
- Foster respect, empathy, generosity and understanding so that pupils can live well together within a diverse local, national and global community.
- Promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, preparing them to become active, informed and responsible citizens.

RE is taught through an enquiry-based approach that encourages pupils to ask questions, investigate different viewpoints, evaluate evidence and develop informed responses.
Teaching promotes:

- respect for all faiths and worldviews
- open-mindedness and critical thinking
- personal reflection
- discussion and dialogue
- opportunities to encounter believers and places of worship where possible

Assessment is informed by the expectations of the Pan Berkshire Agreed Syllabus and is used to identify pupil progress, strengths and next steps in learning.

We are committed to ensuring that all pupils can flourish within Religious Education. Learning is adapted appropriately to meet the needs of pupils with SEND and other vulnerable groups. Teaching reflects the Church of England vision of 'Flourishing for All' and promotes equality, inclusion and dignity for every learner.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The RE subject leader is responsible for monitoring the quality of teaching, learning and assessment in Religious Education.
Monitoring activities may include:

- lesson visits
- planning scrutiny
- pupil discussions
- work scrutiny
- analysis of assessment information

Findings are used to inform curriculum development and school improvement priorities.

Governors monitor the effectiveness of Religious Education through reports from school leaders, curriculum monitoring activities and SIAMS self-evaluation. Governors ensure that Religious Education fulfils statutory requirements and reflects the school's Christian vision.

Withdrawal from Religious Education

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of Religious Education in accordance with Schedule 19 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

Parents are not required to provide a reason for requesting withdrawal, and any request will be granted promptly. Parents may choose to withdraw their child from the whole subject or from specific elements of Religious Education.
The school will respect this statutory right while recognising the contribution that Religious Education makes to pupils' understanding of faith, belief, diversity and community life. Following a request for withdrawal, the school may offer an opportunity to discuss the request with parents to ensure they fully understand the nature and content of Religious Education at Thatcham Park Church of England Primary and Nursery School. Such discussions are entirely voluntary and will take place only after the right of withdrawal has been acknowledged.

Where a pupil is withdrawn from Religious Education, the school will make appropriate arrangements for supervision. Parents are responsible for providing any alternative religious education they wish their child to receive during this time.
Teachers have the right to withdraw from the teaching of Religious Education. However, this does not apply to teachers who have been specifically employed to teach or lead Religious Education. Any teacher wishing to exercise this right should make a written request to the Headteacher. The school will ensure that pupils continue to receive their entitlement to Religious Education.
The Headteacher and Governors will ensure that all requests for withdrawal are managed sensitively, fairly and in accordance with statutory requirements.

Related documents:
Collective Worship Policy
SACRE

Other resources include:
Local Clergy
Local Places of Worship
Oxford Diocese

The school maintains a range of high-quality resources to support Religious Education including:

- ODBE curriculum materials
- Understanding Christianity resources
- sacred texts
- artefacts
- visitors from faith communities
- local places of worship
- digital resources
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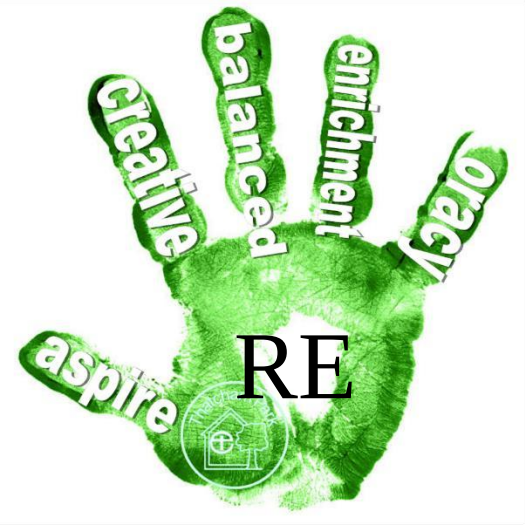
Resources are reviewed regularly by the subject leader.

RE Statement of Curriculum Intent



We are growing children to be **active, inclusive citizens in a worldwide community**, with a good understanding and knowledge of different faiths, cultures and heritages. Demonstrating respect, empathy and acceptance.

Through enquiry work across several religions, pupils are supported to develop their understanding of the **fundamental principles of religion** enabling them to draw comparisons.

Our engaging creative curriculum makes links with art and music with a strong focus on the promotion of oracy to enable pupils to **articulate their thinking and opinions and respond to those of others**.

Pupils encounter Christianity in its local, national and global contexts, exploring the rich diversity of Christian belief and practice around the world.

Christianity is taught in every year group and comprises at least 50% of curriculum time. Learning follows a progressive, enquiry-based curriculum that revisits key theological concepts and builds pupils' knowledge and understanding over time.

Through RE, pupils learn to practise generous hospitality, demonstrating deep respect for people of all faiths and none and recognising the importance of freedom of belief.

Religious Education is taught separately from Collective Worship and follows the requirements of the Pan Berkshire Agreed Syllabus.

Religious Education is taught in an objective, critical and pluralist manner. Pupils engage with a range of religious and non-religious worldviews, examining beliefs

and practices thoughtfully and respectfully while learning to evaluate different perspectives using evidence and reasoned judgement.

An RE lesson

- Lessons begin with a **spark** to engage the pupils
- Balance between knowledge acquisition and skill application through discussion and debate
- Balance between opportunities for personal reflection and enquiry
- Opportunities to record and develop their own opinions in more detail in order to engage in ongoing dialogue with staff