

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY FOR ST. MARGARET'S CofE PRIMARY SCHOOL



At St. Margaret's Church of England Primary School we seek to develop wisdom, encourage aspiration and promote dignity and acceptance enabling our respectful children to live a life giving back to the community.

John 10:10: 'Live life in all its fullness.'

**A**spiration

**W**isdom

**E**ndurance

Approved by the governing body on:	Summer 2024
Shared with stakeholders on:	Summer 2024
Next review:	Summer 2026

## 1. SCHOOL MISSION/VISION STATEMENT

1.1 We use the bible verse, 'Live life in all its Fullness.' (John 10:10) to guide all that we do. It is the Christian basis for our high expectations for learning, achievement and behaviour for each and every pupil and for the way we work with our families, our parish and our whole community.

1.2 RE at St Margaret's Church of England Primary School will be provided within the legal requirements. These are as follows:

- The Basic Curriculum must include provision for RE for all pupils registered on the school roll including those in Reception class who are less than five years old.
- The RE curriculum must be taught in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus for Essex.

## 2. Aims

2.1 The broad aims of religious education (RE) are set out within the locally agreed syllabus and the Church of England Education Statement of Entitlement (2016).

2.2 The aims of religious education are to enable pupils 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.
- 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 living, believing and thinking.

## 3. Curriculum

3.1 The curriculum for RE is designed to ensure religious literacy lies at the heart. Religious literacy defined as:- 'Helping children and young people hold balanced and well-informed conversations about religion and belief'.

3.2 In accordance with the Statement of Entitlement (2019) the majority of the curriculum is allocated to the teaching of Christianity.

3.3 Our RE Scheme of Work is based on the Essex locally agreed syllabus (2022) and a two-year rolling programme. At KS1, the principle religion studied will be Christianity with an in-depth study of Judaism and encountering Hinduism; at KS2 the principle religion studied will be Christianity with further in-depth studies of Sikhism and Islam and encounters of Humanism, Buddhism and Judaism.

#### 4. Learning and Teaching

4.1 We teach RE using three lenses – philosophy, theology and social sciences.

4.2 RE units are taught using an enquiry based approach utilising the five E's – engage, enquire, explore, evaluate and express.

4.3 A range of teaching and learning styles are used within RE; we aim to ensure enquiry, art, drama, thinking skills, speaking and listening activities, multi-sensory activities, visits/visitors, ICT and other teaching strategies are used in order to enable each pupil to progress in RE according to their individual needs.

4.4 As a result of our holistic approach to the learning and teaching of RE not all RE learning may result in written or pictorial work by children.

4.5 We identify RE as one of the core subjects through which our pupils can develop spiritually, morally, socially and culturally, but we do not limit the delivery of SMSC to this subject alone.

#### 5. Assessment

5.1 Assessment is regarded as an integral part of teaching and learning and is a continuous process. It is the responsibility of the class teaching to assess all pupils in their class. We assess the children in order to ensure that they make good progress in this subject and to plan future work.

5.2 Pupils are assessed in-line with the guidance in the Essex Locally Agreed Syllabus (2022). This can be done in a variety of ways e.g. through written activities, role play, art work, discussion and such like.

#### 6. Monitoring

6.1 The Subject Leader will monitor RE provision and standards within the school through observation, looking at work, talking to pupils and reviewing the curriculum with staff.

6.2 The Subject Leader is responsible for contributing to the school's self-evaluation process. In addition, the Local Governing Body have a responsibility for holding the school leaders to account for the high quality of RE provided for pupils.

#### 7. Resources

7.1 There are a wide range of resources available to support the teaching of RE. We take advice from the Diocesan RE Adviser and other RE professionals on the best resources to support the delivery of high-quality RE.

#### 8. The right to withdraw

8.1 St Margaret's Church of England Primary School is an inclusive community but recognises that parents/guardians have the legal right to withdraw their children from religious education. Any parent / guardian considering this should contact the Headteacher.

8.2 Should a parent/guardian request that their child be withdrawn from RE, their right must be respected. If pupils are withdrawn from RE the school has a duty to supervise them, though not provide additional teaching or to incur extra cost.

## 9. RE and Inclusion

9.1 All pupils are entitled to a broad and balanced curriculum at an appropriate level. Through RE teaching we provide learning opportunities that enable all pupils to make good progress. We strive hard to meet the needs of these pupils with special educational needs, those with special gifts and talents, and we take all reasonable steps to achieve this.

9.2 Further information about our support for children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) can be found in our SEN policy.

## 10. Inspection

10.1 St Margaret's Church of England Primary School is a Voluntary Controlled School. As such RE is not inspected as a separate element of the Section 48 SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspection. It is the responsibility of the RE Subject Leader to review and maintain evidence for the RE elements of this inspection, with appropriate support from the Headteacher, Governors and Diocesan RE Adviser.

## 11. Monitoring

11.1 Implementation and impact of the policy will be evaluated through the school's self-evaluation process.