



Dream big, shine bright

St NICHOLAS

C of E Primary School, Alcester

Religious Education Policy



Adopted January 2017

Reviewed: January 2025

Review: July 2028

1. Definition

1.1 The purpose of Religious Education (RE) is to pose and explore answers to deeply relevant questions pursued by individuals and groups, from both religious and non-religious worldviews, in their search for meaning, purpose, and truth in life. This will be achieved through a multidisciplinary approach to exploring core concepts relevant to most religions and worldviews at increasing depth.

1.2 Pupils will:

- Become aware of their personal worldview and the positionality that shapes it.
 - Develop skills to hold conversations about their own worldview and those of others.
 - Learn to interpret knowledge wisely through exploration of diverse, lived expressions of worldviews.
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2. Legal Requirements

2.1 The provision of Religious Education and an Agreed Syllabus derives from:

- Education Act 1996 (S. 375)
- School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (SS. 69 and 71, Schedule 19)
- Education Act 2002 (S. 80)

2.2 The Coventry and Warwickshire Agreed Syllabus (CWAS) for Religious Education is the legal framework for our RE plans. It reflects the predominance of Christian traditions in Great Britain while also considering the teachings and practices of other principal religions represented in the country.

2.3 **Legal Requirements:**

- RE must be provided for all registered pupils in full-time education except those withdrawn at their parents' request. This includes Reception classes but not nursery classes.
 - In Community Schools, Foundation Schools, and Voluntary Controlled Schools without a religious character, RE must adhere to the Agreed Syllabus.
 - In Foundation and Voluntary Controlled Schools with a religious foundation, parents may request RE according to the school's Trust Deed or the beliefs/denomination specified in the school's designation.
 - The Agreed Syllabus must be non-denominational, although teaching about denominational differences is permitted.
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3. Equal Opportunities

3.1 Activities in RE are carefully differentiated to enable all pupils to achieve their potential.

3.2 Every child is entitled to RE instruction regardless of age, culture, gender, background, special need, or disability. RE fosters a balanced view of our multicultural society while respecting individual faiths, non-faiths, or cultural backgrounds.

4. Rights of Withdrawal

4.1 **Pupils:** Parents or guardians may withdraw their children from RE. While reasons are not required, the school ensures that parents/carers are informed of the educational objectives and syllabus content. Alternative arrangements will be provided if necessary.

4.2 **Teachers:** Teachers have the right to withdraw from teaching RE.

5. Time Allocation

5.1 Reception:

- RE is taught for 36 hours annually, approximately 50 minutes per week, integrating with continuous provision and the 7 areas of learning, specifically Personal, Social, and Emotional Development (PSED) and Understanding the World (UTW).
- Pupils encounter Christianity and other faiths as part of their growing self-awareness and sense of community.

5.2 Key Stages 1 and 2:

- KS1: Minimum of 36 hours annually.
- KS2: Minimum of 45 hours annually.

Lessons follow the CWAS for 2024-2029 alongside the Understanding Christianity scheme of work. Detailed plans outline:

- Learning intentions and enquiry questions.
 - Differentiated outcomes and skills developed.
 - Units addressing key RE concepts.
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6. Curriculum Coverage

6.1 RE has a distinct place in the curriculum with cross-curricular links to various subjects.

6.2 Curriculum Content:

- Underpinned by the school vision: *Dream Big Shine Bright* (Matthew 5:16).
- Built on CWAS core concepts and enquiry questions.
- Incorporates Christian and other worldviews, including less common and non-religious perspectives.
- Uses thematic enquiry questions and systematic exploration of organised worldviews, focusing on diversity and lived expressions of religion and worldviews.

6.3 Understanding Christianity:

- Teaches core Christian concepts such as God, Creation/Fall, Incarnation, Salvation, Gospel, Kingdom of God, and People of God through biblical texts and their implications for Christians and pupils.

7. Well-being and SMSC

7.1 RE provides opportunities to explore Christian and moral values underpinning personal behaviour and choices. It also encourages spiritual reflection, allowing pupils to connect with their sense of identity, purpose, and meaning in life.

7.2 It promotes:

- High standards of personal behaviour.
- A positive attitude towards others.
- Appreciation of cultural diversity.
- Teaching of British Values alongside RE units to foster tolerance and respect.
- Opportunities for pupils to engage in reflective practices, exploring their own spirituality and inner values.
- Encouragement for pupils to express a sense of awe, wonder, and curiosity about the world and their place within it.
- Development of empathy and deeper understanding of the spiritual dimensions of different worldviews

8. Management of Religious Education

8.1 **Subject Leader:** Laura O’Hanlon is responsible for coordinating RE teaching throughout the school.

8.2 Responsibilities include:

- Developing and evaluating the RE action plan.
- Supporting staff with planning and teaching.
- Monitoring teaching standards and outcomes.
- Organizing resources, church visits, and training sessions.

9. Health and Safety

9.1 Staff must adhere to health and safety and safeguarding policies when organizing visitors, visits, or using artefacts. All external visits require risk assessments and relevant documentation.

10. Safeguarding

10.1 All RE activities comply with the school’s Safeguarding Policy. Additional adults and volunteers supporting RE must understand their safeguarding responsibilities.

11. Online Safety

11.1 The use of digital devices and the internet in RE is managed under the school's online safety policy.

12. Assessment

12.1 The CWAS focuses on progression of disciplinary knowledge and skills as laid out in the syllabus units. Teachers use the CWAS assessment resources to assess ability to answer key questions for each unit. Judgments are based on whether pupils are developing, meeting, or exceeding the expected standard and are recorded on Insights.

13. Resources

13.1 Artefacts are stored in the KS2 corridor RE cupboard. Online resources are available at:

- [Warwickshire RE Resources](#)
 - [Coventry and Warwickshire CWAS 2024-2029](#)
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14. Monitoring and Review

14.1 Monitoring of teaching standards and pupil progress is conducted termly. The annual RE action plan, informed by the School Improvement Plan, outlines areas for further improvement.