



Belgrave St Peter's Church of England Primary School

Religious Education Policy

Date: September 2024

Date of Review: September 2026

Approved by Governors (date)

Signed on behalf of the Governing Body:

Statement of intent

At Belgrave St Peter's Church of England Primary School, we uphold Christian values and beliefs.

We are committed to:

- teaching and living the Christian way of life;
- providing quality education for all our children;
- developing respect and consideration for all members of our community.

We believe in the concept of lifelong learning and the idea that both adults and children learn new things every day. We maintain that learning should be a rewarding and enjoyable experience for everyone; it should be fun.

Our teaching of Religious Education provokes challenging questions about the ultimate meaning and purpose of life, beliefs about God, the self and the nature of reality, issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human. It supports and reinforces the aims of Belgrave St Peter's School, valuing all children equally and as individuals, whilst encouraging pupils to learn from different religions, beliefs, values and traditions through exploring their own beliefs and questions of meaning.

This Policy is carried out within the context and spirit of the school's vision *'And now we have these three: faith and hope and love, but the greatest of these is love.'* 1 Corinthians 13:13.

This document should be seen in conjunction with our policies relating to SMSC.

Legal Requirements

Belgrave St Peter's is a Church of England school, therefore Religious Education must be taught in accordance with the Trust Deed and should reflect the rites, practices and beliefs of the Church of England. The governing body is responsible for the subject in the school. This is delegated to the Headteacher and the Religious Education subject leader/coordinator on a daily basis. Following the Diocese of Leicester Guidelines for Religious Education, the majority of work in Religious Education will be based on the Christian faith with the introduction of other major world religions introduced in KS1 (Islam) and KS2 (Hinduism, Islam and Judaism) as a minimum requirement. This will be undertaken, drawing from the relevant, SACRE endorsed curriculums (Religious Literacy for All, the New Leicestershire Agreed Syllabus & Understanding Christianity).

Religious Education will be allocated not less than 5% of the timetable. In Key Stage 1 this amounts to between 40-50 minutes per week totalling 36 hours over the year. In Key Stage 2 children should be taught Religious Education for 1 ¼ hours per week totalling 45 hours over the year. At Belgrave St Peter's School, staff ensure coverage by block planning units of work for each half term, embarking on 'RE Weeks'. During this time, the RE entitlement is delivered across both the normally allocated 'Literacy' session and through the use of curriculum time to develop greater depth and embrace creativity.

Withdrawals

Parents have a right by law to withdraw their children from the Religious Education curriculum. In this event, the school will undertake responsibility for the supervision of withdrawn pupils with regard to health and safety, alternative work will be provided.

Aims & Objectives

The purpose of teaching Religious Education at Belgrave St Peter's is:

- To show children that Christianity is about following the living God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit and is relevant to their daily lives;
- To extend children's ability to reflect upon themselves as whole people, experiencing life through body, mind and spirit;
- To help pupils understand the significance of religion and its contribution to their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

We aim through our teaching

- To provide a course of Religious Education within the framework of the Diocese of Leicester Religious Education Guidelines appropriate to the educational needs of the children in our school, at their different stages of development;
- To contribute to the spiritual, social and moral development of the school as a caring community and the pupils as individuals;
- To assist and encourage experience of Christian life and worship;
- Through study of major world religions to encourage and understanding and appreciation of the rich diversity of religious belief and practice in society today.

We aim to encourage children in our school

- To grow in awareness of others through learning activities involving sharing and co-operation and to develop trust and respect for others;
- To formulate their own sense of purpose in life and to embark upon a personal search for a faith by which to live;
- To learn something of the religious experiences of others;
- To develop their own beliefs, values and ideals in the light of their experiences;
- To develop respect for other people, their beliefs and their life-styles;
- To develop an enquiring attitude towards religion and to explore activities of prayer and worship.

Entitlement

The children's entitlement is based upon 'Religious Literacy for All' Leicestershire Agreed Syllabus 2016 – 2021, together with 'Understanding Christianity' and these provide the basis for our planning and teaching. The principal aim of RE is to engage pupils in systematic enquiry into significant human questions which religion and worldviews address, so that they can develop the understanding and skills needed to appreciate and appraise varied responses to these questions, as well as develop responses of their own.

- In the main, Religious Education will be taught as a discrete subject although the approach may vary. For example, it may be more appropriate to integrate some areas of the Religious Study programme into a general topic with a thematic approach.
- Religious Education in school is organized using a whole school overview or plan. This lays out which units, or themes, should be studied by each year group.
- Wherever possible all children will learn from primary source material as well as through the use of outside speakers with relevant experience and audio-visual aids. Visits to places of worship and drama workshops and visiting theatre companies also support the work of Religious Education in school.

Procedures

Teaching and learning style

At Belgrave St. Peter's CE Primary School, Religious Education will:

- Be taught throughout the school, mainly by the class teacher, but may be supported from time to time by clergy from local churches and visiting speakers;
- Largely be taught in a 'whole class' setting but with flexibility to allow for discussion, questioning and reflection in small groups and individually;
- Be enhanced through visits to local churches, Leicester Cathedral and other places of worship; Make use of a variety of teaching approaches:
 - Teacher presentations, role play and storytelling.
 - Questions and answer sessions, discussions and debates.
 - Individual and group research.
 - Photographs, pictures and maps
 - Computing, television, video, film, tape, CD, radio and PCs to research and communicate ideas.

Progression will be guided by the new Leicestershire Religious Education Agreed Syllabus. Religious Education may be integrated with other subjects as appropriate for example Computing, History and PSHE. There are children of differing ability in all classes at Belgrave St. Peter's however we believe that **all** children should be encouraged to reach their full potential. We use classroom assistants to support some children and to ensure that work is matched to the needs of individuals.

Planning

- Religious Education is a core subject for our school, and we use 'Religious Literacy for All' Leicestershire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2016-2021 as the basis for implementing the statutory requirements of the programme of study for Religious Education.
- Alongside this, we are implementing 'Understanding Christianity'. This new syllabus, which has been designed in conjunction with the Leicestershire Agreed Syllabus, is a more coherent and challenging curriculum with regard to the teaching of Christianity, and is designed to raise the level of pupil's religious literacy and develop their ability to think theologically and engage with theological enquiry.
- We liaise closely with a number of ministers associated with the school to deepen teacher's subject knowledge of each aspect of the 'Understanding Christianity' themes, so as to equip them with the knowledge, confidence and skills to deliver this highly innovative curriculum. Staff meetings and planned CPD allow staff to explore each theme in greater depth, with the ministers providing the theological background.
- It is the class teacher who completes the classes' plans for the teaching of Religious Education. Plans list the specific learning objectives for each lesson and give details of how the lessons are to be taught. The class teacher keeps and shares these plans with the subject leader and will often discuss them on an informal basis.

Assessment and recording

- We assess children's work in Religious Education in conjunction with the National Curriculum, and the assessments and guidance presented with the 'Religious Literacy for All', Leicestershire Agreed Syllabus, and 'Understanding Christianity' frameworks.
- We make short-term assessments at the end of each theme or unit, and annual assessments of children's progress measured against Age Related Expectations (ARE) as laid out in conjunction with the September 2014 National Curriculum.
- Assessments identify pupil's achievements on a 3-point scale – Working Towards, Expected and Greater Depth.
- The Religious Education subject leader keeps samples of children's work in a portfolio, moderated against ARE. This demonstrates what the expected level of achievement is in Religious Education in each year of the school.

Resources

- There are a range of resources to support the teaching of Religious Education across the school.
- All classrooms have a Reflection Area and use display to engage the children with their current areas of Religious Educational study.

- The library contains a range of books to support children's individual research.
- There is a centralised stock of Religious Education resources held electronically to which all staff have access.
- Religious Education resources will be reviewed and updated regularly considering budgetary constraints.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Monitoring of the standards of children's work and of the quality of teaching in Religious Education is the responsibility of the Religious Education subject leader.
- The work of the Religious Education subject leader also involves supporting colleagues in the teaching of Religious Education, being informed about current developments in the subject, and providing a strategic lead and direction for the subject in the school.
- The Religious Education subject leader gives the Headteacher an annual summary in which she evaluates strengths and weaknesses in the subject and indicates areas for further improvement.
- The Headteacher allocates regular management time to the Religious Education subject leader so that she can review samples of children's work, review use of the 'Religious Literacy for All' and 'Understanding Christianity' frameworks across the school and undertake lesson observations of Religious Education teaching across the school.
- A named member of the school's governing body is briefed to oversee the teaching of Religious Education. This governor meets regularly with the subject leader to review progress.

This policy will have regard to all other school policies including those of SMSC, Collective Worship, Gifted and Talented pupils, SEND and the schools Equality and Diversity Policy.