



Kennington CE Academy

'Everyone who uses what he has will get more. He will have much more than he needs. But the one who does not use what he has will have everything taken away from him.'

Parable of the Talents. (Matthew 25:14- 30)

Religious Education Policy

Document Information	Date/source of Policy	Responsibility
Date of review	September 2024	SLT/ CD Leader
Date of new review	September 2026	SLT/ CD Leader
Source of policy		
Date of Adoption		

Our School Vision

We are an Inclusive Community where Christian values empower us. With God's guidance, we work with pride and passion to create life-long learners who fulfil their potential. If we work together, we will be the very best that we can be: achieving, celebrating and succeeding whilst having fun.

Intent

As a Church of England School, the Christian faith is at the heart of everything we do. Our school curriculum is driven and shaped by our school vision, with religious education (RE) forming part of the core curriculum at Kennington CE Academy. It makes significant contributions to the development of children's Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural understanding and strongly supports the development and implementation of our Christian values. We promote an environment where all children feel known, accepted and valued as individuals. We believe that it is fundamental for the children to belong to a safe and nurturing community, founded on strong Christian values where children will develop an array of skills that will enable them to make their own positive contribution to our global society. Our belief is that RE is a cornerstone within this development, allowing children to explore, question, analyse, evaluate and respect; to build a better understanding of the world and their place within it.

Policy Statement for Religious Education

Religious education should enable every member of our school community to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10). It will help educate for dignity and respect encouraging all to live well together.

Such an approach is offered through a commitment to generous hospitality, being true to

our underpinning faith, but with a deep respect for the integrity of other religious traditions (and worldviews) and for the religious freedom of each person.

(Religious Education Statement of Entitlement February 2019)

Introduction

At Kennington CE Academy, children and their families can expect a high-quality religious education (RE) curriculum that is challenging, rich and varied, enabling learners to acquire a thorough knowledge and understanding of a range of faiths and world views. As a Church school, the teaching of Christianity is at the heart of our RE curriculum. Through the Understanding Christianity resource, the use of an enquiry approach engages with significant theological concepts and the child's own understanding of the world as part of their wider religious literacy. Using the Kent Agreed Syllabus, we learn about other religions and world views, fostering respect for them. Links with our Christian Vision and Values, and support for children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development are intrinsic to our RE curriculum and have a significant impact on learners. We provide a wide range of opportunities for learners to understand and to make links between the beliefs, practices and value systems of the range of faiths and world views studied.

Aims and objectives

As stated in the Church of England Religious Education Statement of Entitlement, our school aims for all children:

- 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 of living, believing and thinking.
- To develop a positive attitude towards other people, respecting their right to hold different beliefs from their own, and towards living in a society of diverse religions.

Curriculum for Religious Education

RE is an academic subject that has a high profile in our school curriculum. It is a priority for senior leaders, who ensure that the teaching, learning and resourcing of RE is comparable with other curriculum subjects.

This means that the RE curriculum:

- is intrinsic to the outworking of our distinctive Christian Vision in enabling all children to flourish. In addition, it contributes to British values and to children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- is delivered in an objective, critical and pluralistic manner to engage and challenge all children through an exploration of core concepts and questions. Lessons provide meaningful and informed dialogue about a range of religions and worldviews.
- reflects a good balance between the disciplines of theology, philosophy and human science, to enable children to develop their religious literacy*

**Religious Literacy: Helping children and young people hold balanced and well-informed conversations about religion and belief. ([Key Principles of a balanced curriculum in RE.](#))*

- enables children to acquire a rich, deep knowledge and understanding of Christian belief and practice, including the ways in which it is unique and diverse, whilst engaging with biblical texts and theological ideas.
- provides opportunities for children to understand the role of foundational texts, beliefs, rituals, and practices and how they help to form identity in a range of religions and worldviews.
- supports the development of other curriculum areas and other general educational abilities such as reading, writing, empathy and the ability to express thoughts, feelings and personal beliefs.
- encompasses the full range of abilities to ensure that all flourish academically, using a wide range of teaching and learning strategies which consider the task, outcome, resource, support and grouping as appropriate to the individual child's needs.

- offers tasks that are age appropriate, challenging and sufficiently demanding to stimulate and engage all children, whilst extending the most able and providing support for those who need it.
- ensures that all children's contributions are valued in RE as they draw on their own experiences and beliefs. Children understand that there are no right or wrong answers, RE being a safe space to explore their own and others' beliefs and values.

Curriculum balance and time

Reflecting the academy funding agreement parents and children are entitled to expect that, as a Church school, Christianity should be the majority religion studied in each year group and should be at least 50% of curriculum time. Sufficient dedicated curriculum time, meeting explicitly RE objectives, however organised, should be committed to the delivery of RE. This should aim to be close to 10% of overall curriculum time but must be no less than 5% in key stages 1-4.

This amounts to a minimum of 45 hours at Key Stage 2.

This equates to around 1 hour and 15 minutes each week.

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Year 3	CHRISTIANITY	SIKHI (CHRISTMAS)	CHRISTIANITY	CHRISTIANITY	CHRISTIANITY	SIKHI
Year 4	CHRISTIANITY	CHRISTIANITY	CHRISTIANITY	CHRISTIANITY	HINDU FAITH	Cross religion discussion
Year 5	CHRISTIANITY	CHRISTIANITY	CHRISTIANITY	CHRISTIANITY	ISLAM	ISLAM
Year 6	CHRISTIANITY	CHRISTIANITY	JUDAISM	CHRISTIANITY	ISLAM and CHRISTIANITY discussion	HUMANISM

The RE entitlement is completely separate from requirements for Collective Worship. Collective Worship must not be considered curriculum time for RE or the teaching of RE.

Teaching and Learning

Learning activities provide fully for the needs of all children, so that they develop a wide range of skills including enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and reflection. RE lessons provide a safe space to explore their own religious, spiritual and/or philosophical ways of seeing, living and thinking, believing and belonging. They provide opportunities to engage in meaningful and informed dialogue with those of other world religions and worldviews.

Children experience opportunities to learn and express themselves through an enquiry-based style of learning by:

- Posing and discussing 'big' and challenging questions
- Reading and critically analysing texts.
- Interpreting information from different sources.
- Seeking information for themselves in libraries and on computers.
- Listening to and discussing with the teacher and other children.
- Engaging in pair and group work.
- Exploring a range of media such as artefacts, pictures, photographs, music and drama.
- Experiencing visits and visitors.
- Taking part in outdoor learning.
- Taking time for reflection.
- Choice of presentation of work that allows the children to develop and apply a wide range of skills such as art, music, drama or writing.

Teaching in RE challenges stereotypes, misinformation and misconceptions about race, gender and religion. Lessons seek to present religions and world views in all their richness and diversity in terms of beliefs, traditions, customs and lifestyle in a sensitive and accurate way in order to encourage a positive attitude towards diversity. All questions, views, and opinions are treated with sensitivity and respect.

Teachers establish clear links between elements of religious belief and practice and aspects of the children's own lives. Teaching enables children to gain something of personal value from their study of religious belief and practice, for example, the way that they might apply insights gained from religious stories to their own lives.

Differentiation and Special Educational Needs

Policy and practice in Religious Education reflects whole school policy and encompasses the full range and ability of all children. All children's contributions are valued in RE as they draw on their own experiences and beliefs. A range of teaching and learning strategies, to achieve differentiated learning, are used including task, outcome, resource, support and grouping. There is particular concern to ensure that all tasks are challenging and sufficiently demanding to stimulate and engage all children whilst extending the most able. Where necessary, separate curriculums will be provided to meet the needs of individuals through discussion with the SENCO, RE leader and SLT.

Cross-curricular links

Religious education supports the development of general educational abilities such as reading, writing, empathy and the ability to express thoughts, feelings and personal beliefs. RE also makes a major contribution to children's SMSC development. At Kennington CE Academy, planning of RE lessons and activities ensures elements of all other are entwined within the lessons. It addresses issues which arise in a range of subjects, such as English, art, drama and history, geography, computing, music as well as personal, social and emotional education and citizenship.

Health and Safety

Health and safety issues may arise in religious education on a number of occasions for example, when children:

- Handle artefacts.
- Consume food.
- Visit places of worship.

Teachers will conform to guidelines in the school's health and safety policy in these circumstances.

Recording, Marking, Assessment and Reporting

All children have their own RE book to record their work. The children will receive either verbal or written feedback for each piece of work and the school's Marking Policy will be followed. Each piece should have an "I wonder..." question to move the individual's thinking on.

Assessment in religious education will:

- Involve identifying suitable opportunities in schemes of work such as Understanding Christianity.
- Be directly related to the expectations of the Kent Agreed Syllabus.
- Seek to identify development in the different areas of learning in the subject and not only in the acquisition of factual knowledge.
- Recognise the range of skills and attitudes which the subject seeks to develop.
- Employ well defined criteria for marking and assessment which identify progress and achievement as well as effort, following the school's marking policy.
- Include child self-assessment.
- Enable effective tracking of individual children's progress to identify areas for development in the child's knowledge and understanding, as well as whole school areas for development.
- Enable effective reporting to parents.

Roles and Responsibilities of the RE Subject Leader

It is the responsibility of the subject leader to:

- Ensure that all children receive their legal entitlement of religious education.
- Ensure RE provision reflects the Church of England Statement of Entitlement (See- <https://www.canterburydiocese.org/childrenandyoungpeople/our-schools/religious-education/>)
- Produce and regularly review a subject policy to ensure that it remains up to date
- Write and evaluate an annual action plan for RE.
- Ensure all teachers are aware of what should be taught in Religious Education, what resources are available, and what standards of attainment are expected at the end of each Key Stage.

- Through the planned assessment cycle; monitor and review the implementation of policy, schemes of work, the quality and effectiveness of the delivery of RE, children's progress and standards.
- Observe the teaching and learning of RE in school, providing support and guidance for teachers.
- Ensure there are rigorous assessment systems in place to enable teachers and children to gauge progress and attainment in RE.
- Monitor end of term assessments. Track and analyse data across the year groups, including vulnerable groups, to put support in place where needed.
- Liaise with the HT and Governors to feedback on the monitoring and impact of RE teaching and learning across the school.
- Support colleagues by sharing new ideas and pedagogy, to help develop their subject confidence and expertise through CPD opportunities and support sessions.
- Seek opportunities to share effective practice locally and regionally and engage in professional development for themselves and other staff members.
- Oversee the RE budget and monitor RE resources to ensure they are kept and stored respectfully and replaced where necessary.
- Ensure there is a school protocol that covers safeguarding procedures and a suitability process, for when visitors are invited into RE lessons.
- Contribute to the RE section of the school's SEF for SIAMS and the SIP.
- Keep the RE page on the school website up to date with relevant information.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Development

It is the role of the subject leader to monitor and evaluate the RE curriculum throughout the school. We monitor and evaluate the curriculum in the following ways:

- Lesson observations with feedback.
- Work Scrutiny, including moderation within the year groups.
- Monitoring teachers' planning and records.
- Pupil voice questionnaires
- Staff meeting, discussion about children's work.
- Track and analyse data on a seasonal termly basis.

Resources

Religious Education will be funded to enable a range of resources on different religions to be purchased, such as books for teachers, children and the library; posters, CDs, DVDs and artefacts. The school makes use of guidance material produced by Canterbury Diocese. Funding will also allow, where possible, visits to different places of worship and provide INSET for staff. All resources will be listed, stored, be easily accessible and kept in good condition. Resource banks will be available for both staff and children on all major religions and world views as appropriate.

Related Policies and Documents

- The Kent Agreed Syllabus For Religious Education (2017- 2027)

- Understanding Christianity Scheme of Work
- Teaching and Learning Policy
- Assessment Policy.
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Policy.
- Health and Safety Policy
- Equal Opportunities Policy.
- Inclusion Policy
- Marking Policy
- Christian Distinctiveness Policy

Legal Requirements

Religious Education must be provided for all registered children in full time education except those withdrawn at their parents' request (or their own request if aged 18 or over).

(DfE Circular 1 / 94, paragraphs 44 & 49, and Non-Statutory Guidance 2010 page 28)

The school must comply with any request from a parent to withdraw their child and parents are not required to give their reasons for wanting to do so. However, in view of the Christian ethos and distinctive Christian character of our school, we would hope that all children admitted will participate fully in RE, and that anyone wishing to withdraw their child would discuss this with the headteacher and subject leader before making this decision.

If children are withdrawn from religious education, children will be supervised within another class setting. Parents will be invited to supply the school with suitable RE material for the child to work on during RE lessons, however the school will not supply additional work or teach an alternative lesson for the child.

Review

The governing body will review this policy every two years unless changes are required.