



St Catherine's School

Religious Education Policy

Approved: Spring 2023

Next Review: Spring 2025

This policy is delegated to **School Improvement Committee** for review and approval.

St. Catherine's is a Church of England Primary School and recognising our historic foundation, we will preserve and develop our religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with St. Catherine and St. Paul's Church and The St. Alban's Diocese.

Our School Vision

Our Vision – Let Your Light Shine!

We aim to develop independent children who are equipped for the world they are living in, prepared for the challenges of the future and who strive for excellence in all they do

We seek to nurture children who appreciate the richness, diversity and potential of the world beyond their own, including their responsibilities within it

We are committed to ensuring children master secure knowledge and understanding across the curriculum, having the skills to apply and express their understanding

We continue to provide opportunities for children to take risks, explore and have the courage to follow their curiosity, helping them to discover their own voice and identity

We look forward to preserving and developing our religious character in partnership with the church and the diocese, encouraging children to explore their own beliefs and living according to our Christian values

In partnership, to live, learn and grow in independence and in faith through hope in our future

Introduction

RE is central to the purpose of St Catherine's because, we see as a church school that the Christian faith informs all aspects of our lives. RE explores how individuals and communities make sense of their lives through some of the major world religions. It allows pupils to know about, understand and respond to the important and ultimate questions of life. Pupils are inspired to explore, develop and affirm their own faith and values and have respect for the faith, beliefs and values of others.

Aims

We believe that RE at our school supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Specifically, RE at our school aims to enable pupils of all abilities and levels of development to:

- Acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of principal world religions;
- Develop an understanding of the influence of beliefs, values and traditions on individuals, communities, societies and cultures, particularly our local community;
- Develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues with reference to the teachings of principal religions;
- Enhance their own spiritual, moral, social and cultural development;
- Recognise the right of people to hold different beliefs within an ethnically and socially diverse society.

Teaching

RE teaching is currently based on the Hertfordshire Agreed Syllabus. From September 2023, it will be supported by 'Understanding Christianity' and 'The Emanuel Project'. Our aim is to ensure that pupils develop knowledge and understanding of sources of wisdom and their impact, whilst exploring personal and critical responses.

Sources of wisdom and their impacts:

All pupils should:

- Know, understand and explore the significance of sacred texts, other sources of wisdom and ways of expressing meaning
- Express ideas and insights about the nature of beliefs, values and practices and their impact on the identity of individuals and communities
- Recognise and explore the diversity which exists within and between religious traditions

Personal and critical responses:

All pupils should:

- Express their personal reflections, critical responses and connections to faith and belief enquiring into philosophical, moral and ethical issues
- Engage with questions and answers offered by religions and worldviews concerning ultimate questions and human responsibility
- Develop the skills required to engage with others in dialogue and to cooperate in society with respect and compassion

There are 8 key areas of learning which all pupils will engage with:

Beliefs and practices; Sources of wisdom; Symbols and actions; Prayer, worship and reflection; Identity and belonging; Ultimate questions; Human responsibility and values; Justice and fairness.

EYFS: children will explore Christianity and religious beliefs represented in their class. RE will support their growing awareness of self, the community and their place within it.

KS1: pupils will explore Christianity and Islam. RE will be taught for at least one hour per week.

KS2: pupils will explore Christianity, Islam, Judaism and Hinduism. There will be opportunities to explore other worldviews including atheism and humanism. RE will be taught for at least one hour per week.

Teaching will include drama, art studies, the use of artefacts, visits to places of interest and visitors to the school.

Teachers will be responsible for assessing pupils at the end of EYFS, KS1, Lower KS2 and Upper KS2.