R.E. Policy

Date approved	Committee responsible for review of policy	Next review date	Policy on website	Statutory policy
September 2025	FGB	September 2027	No	No

Headteacher: Mrs Fiona Micklefield

1. Purpose of the policy

This policy reflects the aims and values of St Lawrence CE Primary School. It ensures all stakeholders, including staff, governors, parents and pupils, are working towards the same goals.

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Set out a framework for all teaching and non-teaching staff, giving guidance on planning, teaching and assessment
- Demonstrate adherence to the National Curriculum objectives and guidelines (if appropriate)
- Provide clear information to parents and carers about what their children will be taught
- Allow the governing board to monitor the curriculum
- Provide Ofsted inspectors with evidence of curriculum planning and implementation

2. Subject vison

At St Lawrence, we believe that it is important to develop our pupil's understanding and appreciation of the different religions and cultures within our school, local community and wider world while also promoting and holding dear our Christian ethos. Our school values of 'Love, Compassion and Respect' underpin everything we do across all areas of school life. Our RE curriculum plays an important role in promoting social awareness and understanding in our children as we celebrate diversity while also exploring similarities between different religions, cultures and beliefs. We encourage each child to ask questions about the world and reflect upon their place within it as part of our local and global community. The RE curriculum encourages pupils to have a respectful and tolerant attitude to others while supporting in the development of their own values. It includes and promotes British values, ensuring our children are aware of their rights and responsibilities as UK citizens.

3. Aims and rationale

Rationale:

Religious education can provide a rich and wide range of experiences inside and outside the classroom, which give children opportunities to develop concepts and skills that will help them to make sense of their own experiences and beliefs, and to understand the beliefs and practices of members of faith communities. Indoctrination and conversion are not part of the educational process and therefore have no place in religious education. Religious education is an educational subject in its own right, taught within an educational framework.

Aims:

- To enable pupils to understand the nature of Christian beliefs and practices and the beliefs and practices of other world faiths including opportunity to visit these during their time at St Lawrence CE Primary School;

- To teach tolerance and challenge prejudice towards people of different faiths through providing opportunities to develop an understanding of the value of living in a multicultural, multi-faith and multi-lingual society;
- To help pupils reflect upon their own needs, experiences and questions and to confront what are sometimes referred to as 'big questions';
- To encourage pupils to develop open minds to new and different concepts and to form their own opinions based on evidence and argument;
- To maintain close links with local churches and other religious communities;
- To learn from religions in addition to gaining knowledge and understanding about religions.
- To develop the children's own spirituality – focusing on self, others, beauty and beyond.

Right of Withdrawal:

All parents are informed in the school prospectus and on the website of their right to withdraw their children from RE lessons.

4. Teaching and learning

Every child in St Lawrence takes part in a weekly RE lesson which either links to the Hampshire Living Difference or Understanding Christianity syllabus. Although the Religious Education at St Lawrence is mainly Christian, year groups study a alternative religion 2 half terms each year. In Key Stage One this is Judaism, in Years 3 and 4, this focus is learning about Hinduism and in Year 5 and 6 the children explore the Islamic faith. This allows our children to build their understanding of the principles of these religions in the first year, while then digging deeper into specific concepts in the second year. The focus of our RE lessons is for the children to undertake in a meaningful discussion of the concepts discussed, exploring any opinions they have. The children are given opportunities to pose their own questions and debate their ideas. Rich task are used to deepen understanding and pupils are exposed to a range of stories, artefacts and visits to support with this. We use our local proximity to St Lawrence Church to aid with this, each year group visits the church as part of an RE lesson each year as well as attending our weekly Collective Worship in the church which is conducted by leaders from the local Christian denominations. In addition to this, Years 2, 3 and 5 also visit the place of worship linked to their alternative religion study. Our RE curriculum is supported by our daily Collective Worships which are often lead and assisted by each classes Collective Worship Crusaders. Year 6 also have the privilege of attending Winchester Cathedral each year as part of their leaver's service and becoming Church Council members, collaborating with other local Church of England schools to share ideas.

R.E. is taught using a range of approaches, examples of which might include:

- Whole-class teaching
- Small group discussions
- Exploring Bible stories and extracts
- Handling religious artefacts

- Role play

5. Curriculum overview

Please see the hyperlink below which takes you to the whole school subject overview on the school website where you can see the subject content across all year groups from EYFS, Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2.

Curriculum overview

5.4 Programmes of study

Please see the hyperlink below which takes you to the National Curriculum.

National Curriculum

6. Cross-curricular links

In R.E, there are many opportunities for cross curricular links. This may include:

- English: through reading, writing and drama
- ICT: use of the internet for research
- Geography: exploring places of worship and religions around the world
- Wellbeing: encourages empathy towards other cultures and religions, and reflection on moral issues

7. Assessment and recording

7.1 Assessment

St Lawrence CE Primary School uses assessment to enable staff to understand what pupils have learnt before, what they need to learn now and what they will learn next.

Formative assessment
Formative assessment is ongoing and will be used to inform teachers in relation to their planning, lesson activities and differentiation.

Summative assessment
Summative assessment is recorded at the end of each unit of work.

Feedback

Children receive regular feedback during the lesson and can receive this at the beginning of the next.

7.2 Recording

Pupils will record their learning in the following ways:

- Subject books
- Year R Individual Learning Journey or on Tapestry

This may take the form of photographs, pictures, notes or written work, and may be worksheet-based or fully independent.

8. Resources

8.1 Educational equipment

Bibles and other religious texts, religious artefacts and clothing, objects to support prayer for example: seashells, special stones and bubbles during Collective Worships

8.2 External speakers, local museums, trips

Visits to St Lawrence Church, Winchester Cathedral, mosque, synagogue and Hindu Temple

9. Roles and responsibilities

9.1 Headteacher

The headteacher at our school will:

- Support the subject leader but also hold them to account for the effectiveness of the subject
- Support staff through the provision of training and resources
- Monitor the planning and delivery of the subject
- Ensure the requirements of the National Curriculum are met
- Ensure this policy is reviewed according to the timescales set out

9.2 Subject leader

The subject leaders at our school will:

- Prepare and review subject policy and curriculum plans
- Promote the study of the subject throughout the school
- Monitor the teaching and assessment of the subject
- Attend appropriate CPD
- Stay informed regarding developments in the study and teaching of the subject
- Evaluate resources
- Provide training and CPD to staff on the subject curriculum and its delivery, and keep them informed about subject developments nationally
- Assess the impact of the subject curriculum on pupils' learning and development
- Make presentations to governors on the subject and how it is being taught

9.3 Classroom teacher

Classroom teachers at our school will:

- Teach and assess the subject according to the principles laid out in this policy
- Report to the subject leader
- Maintain subject knowledge and appropriate CPD

9.5 Parents

The parent community at our school will:

- Make sure their children are prepared for learning
- Sign the home school agreement

10. Inclusion

Teachers set high expectations for all pupils in R.E. They will use appropriate assessment to set ambitious targets and plan challenging work for all groups, including:

- More able pupils
- Pupils with low prior attainment
- Pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds
- Pupils with special educational needs (SEN)
- Pupils with English as an additional language (EAL)

Teachers will plan lessons so pupils with SEN and/or disabilities can study R.E, wherever possible, and ensure that there are no barriers to every pupil achieving.

Teachers will also take account of the needs of pupils whose first language is not English. Lessons will be planned so that teaching opportunities help pupils to develop their English, and to support pupils to take part in R.E.

A Support and challenge section forms part of the learning journey planner.

Further information can be found in our statement of equality information and objectives, and in our SEN policy and information report.

11. Links to other policies

This subject policy links to the following policies and procedures:

- Curriculum policy
- Assessment policy
- Feedback policy
- SEN policy

12. Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed by staff and governors every 2 years.

Head Teacher's signature
(Fiona Micklefield)

Chair of Governors' signature (Paul Whitty)