RE Policy

Date approved	Committee responsible for review of policy	Next review date	Policy on website	Statutory policy
September 2023	FGB	September 2026	Yes	Yes

Headteacher: Mrs Fiona Micklefield

Legal Requirement:

It is a statutory requirement that schools teach religious education as prescribed by the locally agreed syllabus. In this school, this means the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education for Hampshire. R.E. will be taught at St Lawrence CE Primary School in line with the county agreed syllabus "Living Difference IV" and the school's trust deed. Religious education at St Lawrence CE Primary School is firmly rooted in the basic beliefs of Christianity. As a school, we follow the "Understanding Christianity" scheme of work to teach the Christianity Units ensuring these dovetail with Living Difference IV. Children of all faiths and none are encouraged to reflect on what might be learnt from religion in the light of their own beliefs and experiences.

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.

Practice:

We recognise the important contribution that the teaching of RE contributes to the development of children's spiritual, moral, cultural and social education. We teach RE as a continuous subject every half term but will also encourage the promotion of spirituality as this occurs naturally through Collective Worship, conversations and questions.

Planning:

A long-term overview of the RE curriculum provides a year's cycle, to ensure continuity and progression. This ensures that Christianity is taught in four out of six units with two units focusing on another religion. All Christianity teaching uses the Understanding Christianity resource. Medium term plans have been produced for each unit of work.

Responsibilities:

It is the responsibility of each class teacher to ensure that the agreed RE curriculum is delivered in their classroom. It is the responsibility of the RE Manager to ensure that the RE curriculum is effectively planned, assessed and resourced.

Teaching and Learning:

All Christianity teaching uses the Understanding Christianity resource and the teaching of other faiths follows the "Living Difference IV" strategy of delivery through the study of concepts. At Key Stage 1 and 2, pupils follow the LA schemes of work, adapted to suit the ability and aptitude of the pupils and with a focus on Christianity and Judaism in Key Stage 1; Christianity and Hinduism in Lower Key Stage 2 and Christianity and Islam in Upper Key Stage 2.

The RE curriculum will be delivered in line with the procedures agreed in the school's teaching and learning policy. Throughout their time at St Lawrence, children are given the experience of visiting a church, a cathedral, a Jewish synagogue, a Hindu temple and a Mosque.

Assessment, recording and reporting arrangements:

Class teachers will assess RE work in line with the school's Assessment policies. Children's attainment in RE will be reported to parents as part of the annual written report to parents. Standards in the quality of the delivered RE curriculum will be monitored by the RE Manager through monitoring of assessment, lesson observations, pupil conferencing and book scrutiny, feeding back to the Head Teacher and SLT.

Reference to other policies:

This policy should be read in conjunction with the school's policies on: equal opportunities, special educational needs, health and safety, and behaviour management.

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.

This policy will be reviewed every three years.

Date policy issued: April 2023 (3 years review)
Date to be reviewed: April 2026

Head Teacher's Signature
(Fiona Micklefield)

Chair of Governors
(Paul Suans)