

Wye Forest Federation

Redbrook Church of England Primary School

St Briavels Parochial Church of England Primary School



St Briavels RE Policy

This policy was agreed by the Full Governing Body on: (and supersedes all previous policies relating to this area)	21.3.24
Implemented:	March 2024
Revised	
Review date:	March 2026

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Name of School: St Briavels Parochial Primary School

Legal Position of Religious Education in School

Religious Education is unique in the curriculum as it is neither a core or foundation subject. In the 1988 Education Act it states, 'Religious Education has equal standing in relation to core subjects of the National Curriculum in that it is compulsory for all pupils'.

St Briavels is a Church of England Voluntary Aided School therefore the provision of Religious Education must be in accordance with the school's Trust Deed. The Governors, in accordance with the Head Teacher, have decided to adopt the Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2017.

The Church of England's Statement of Entitlement

The Church of England's *Statement of Entitlement* outlines the aims and expectations for Religious Education in Church of England Schools and guides this school's approach to RE.

It begins by stating: *Religious Education in a Church school should enable every child to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10) It will help to educate for dignity and respect encouraging all to live well together.* Quoting from the Church of England's Vision for Education: Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good, it continues *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.*

Full details of this document can be found in Appendix One.

Religious Education and the School's Christian Vision

The Christian Vision of Wye Forest Federation:

Love, Learn, Live

Love is at the centre of our federation with the importance of developing the whole child at the heart of all we do.

As a nurturing, inclusive community we enable and engage all to grow, flourish and succeed; discovering a **love** for one another, for **learning** and for **life**.

We seek to inspire ambition, courage and respect to give our children the skills they will need to live in a diverse and ever- changing world now and in the future.

Courage, Compassion, Respect, Resilience

A Theologically Rooted Christian Vision for All

The theme of love runs throughout the Bible v1 John 4:8 directly says "God is Love".

We know that love is important in personal development be it love for yourself or for others. This leads us to Mark 12:31 "Love your neighbour as yourself."

We want our children to develop as loving, inclusive citizens of the world capable of flourishing beyond our care.

At the WFF we have expressed how everything we do, no matter how difficult comes from a place of love, compassion and inclusivity.

Our Aims

At the Wye Forest Federation, we want all of our children to:

- develop a love for learning;
- become **resilient**, ambitious citizens who have the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in life now and in the future.
- have opportunities to learn academically, vocationally, socially and spiritually; to be **courageous** and take personal responsibility for their learning and actions
- develop understanding, **respect** and **compassion** for each other and the diverse world we live in, through learning about ourselves, different cultures, religions and families.
- experience a broad, relevant and inspiring curriculum within an environment that is both physically and emotionally safe and develops the whole child.

Religious Education Intent

The intent of Religious Education at St Briavels C of E is to

- Develop an awareness of spiritual and moral issues in life experiences;
- Develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other major world religions and value systems found in Britain;
- Develop an understanding of what it means to be committed to a religious tradition;
- Be able to reflect on their own experiences and to develop a personal response to the fundamental questions of life:
- Develop an understanding of religious traditions and to appreciate the cultural differences in Britain today;
- Develop investigate and research skills and to enable them to make reasoned judgments about religious issues:
- Have respect for other peoples' views and to celebrate the diversity in society.

School Approach to Religious Education

In line with all church schools, this school has duty to provide accurate knowledge and understanding of religions and world views.

A wide range of imaginative teaching methods and pupil groupings ensure effective RE sessions. We appreciate the positive impact that local faith communities can have on pupils' experience in RE. Therefore this school encourages visits to places of worship and welcomes visitors from different faith communities. We recognise it is vitally important that teachers demonstrate respectful attitudes towards all faiths, modelling the attitudes and responses we would expect from our pupils.

As identified in the Statement of Entitlement, teaching and learning in RE in this school will provide:

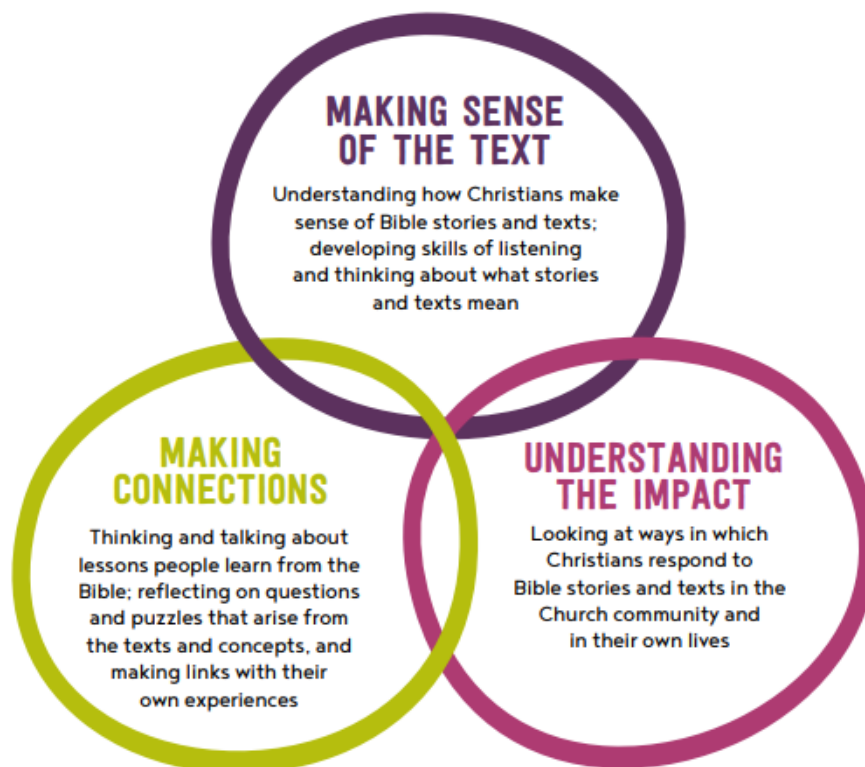
- A challenging and robust curriculum based on an accurate theological framework.
- An assessment process which has rigour and demonstrates progression based on knowledge and understanding of core religious concepts.
- A curriculum that draws on the richness and diversity of religious experience worldwide.
- A pedagogy that instils respect for different views and interpretations; and, in which real dialogue and theological enquiry takes place.
- The opportunity for pupils to deepen their understanding of the religion and world views as lived by believers.
- RE that makes a positive contribution to SMSC development

We recognise the fact that all classes in our Federation have children of widely differing abilities, and so we provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child.

Teaching and Learning

The 2017 syllabus is designed to support schools in developing and delivering excellence in RE. It responds to national calls for deepening pupils' knowledge about religions and for developing their 'religious literacy'. It does this by studying one religion at a time ('systematic' units), and then including 'thematic' units, which build on learning by comparing the religions, beliefs and practices studied.

The teaching and learning approach has three core elements which set the context for exploration of religion and belief:



The agreed syllabus requires that all pupils develop understanding of Christianity in each key stage. In addition, across the age range, pupils will develop understanding of the principal religions represented in the UK, in line with the law. These are Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism and

Judaism. Furthermore, children from families where non-religious worldviews are held are represented in almost all year groups. These worldviews, including for example Humanism, will also be the focus for study in thematic units.

Organisation & Time Allocation

In accordance with the structure of Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus we have agreed that:

In the Foundation Stage pupils will be introduced to a range of faith traditions and will be taught RE for 36 hours over the year.

At Key Stage 1 pupils study Christianity, Judaism and Islam. RE will be taught for at least for 36 hours over the year. This will generally be taught in discrete weekly sessions but periodically RE days will be used when appropriate.

At Key Stage 2 pupils study Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism and also consider non-religious worldviews. RE will be taught for at least for 45 hours over the year. This will generally be taught in discrete weekly sessions but periodically RE days will be used when appropriate.

We keep resources for religious education in a central store. There is a set of bibles for KS 2 and a collection of religious artefacts, which we use to enrich teaching in religious education.

Assessment/Recording & Reporting

The Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2017 sets out a structure for recognising pupil achievements and each pupil can work progressively towards achieving the expected end of key stage learning outcomes as outlined in the syllabus.

We assess children's work in religious education by making informal judgements as we observe them during lessons. On completion of a unit of work, we record our assessments for each pupil on insight and at the end of each year we assess the children's' progress against year group objectives.

The subject leader regularly monitors the standard of work in RE books and facilitates Federation monitoring at staff meetings.

School reports are sent home in the summer term of each year and the RE report is written with reference to assessment records as well as pupils' individual work.

Parents are sent termly information on the RE units that are being taught on the class bubble plans

Health and Safety

When organising off sites visits, teachers will refer to the school policy, 'Organising Educational visits'.

Responsibilities for RE in School

The **subject leader** is responsible for overseeing the teaching and learning of religious education in the school. The role includes:

- RE expresses the schools Christian vision
- Ensuring personal subject knowledge and expertise are kept up-to-date by participating in CPD for RE and share good practice

- Providing and sourcing in-service training for staff as necessary
- Ensuring the staff are familiar with the syllabus and supporting resources such as *Understanding Christianity*
- Supporting and clarifying approach to planning, delivery and assessment being clear about the subject's intent, implementation and impact
- Acquiring and organising appropriate resources, managing a budget when necessary
- Monitoring the teaching and learning of RE through regular lesson observations, work scrutiny, learning walks, analysis of data and pupil voice and be able to discuss impact and standards
- Contributing to the SIAMS self-evaluation process particularly around IQ7
- Providing a set of non-negotiables for RE teaching and learning.

The Head Teacher and Governors make sure:

- RE expresses the schools Christian vision
- All pupils make progress in achieving the learning outcomes of the RE curriculum
- The subject is well led and effectively managed and that standards and achievement in RE and the quality of the provision are subject to regular and effective self-evaluation
- Those teaching RE are suitably qualified and trained in the subject and have effective and regular opportunities for CPD
- Teachers newly appointed to church schools are provided with support offered by the diocese to enable them to become effective teachers of RE
- Clear information is provided for parents on the RE curriculum and the right to withdraw
- RE is resourced, staffed and timetabled so that the school can fulfil its legal obligations on RE and pupils make good progress

The Right of Withdrawal from Religious Education

At St Briavels School we wish to be an inclusive community but recognise that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from religious education on the grounds of conscience. However, the right of withdrawal does not extend to other areas of the curriculum when, as may happen on occasions, spontaneous questions on religious matters are raised by pupils or there are issues related to religion that arise in other subjects such as history and citizenship.

We would ask any parent considering this to contact the head teacher to discuss any concerns and anxieties about the policy, provision and practice of religious education at our school.

Managing the Right of Withdrawal

The school will ensure that parents who want to withdraw their children from RE are aware of the RE syllabus and that it is relevant to all pupils and respects their own personal beliefs.

- Parents should be made aware of its learning objectives and what is covered in the RE curriculum and should be given the opportunity to discuss this, if they wish.
- The school may also wish to review such a request each year, in discussion with the parents.
- The use of the right to withdraw should be at the instigation of parents (or pupils themselves if they are aged 18 or over), and it should be made clear whether it is from the whole of the subject or specific parts of it. No reasons need be given.
- Parents have the right to choose whether or not to withdraw their child from RE without influence from the school, although a school should ensure that parents or carers are informed

of this right and are aware of the educational objectives and content of the RE syllabus. In this way, parents can make an informed decision.

- Where parents have requested that their child is withdrawn, their right must be respected, and where RE is integrated in the curriculum, the school will need to discuss the arrangements with the parents or carers to explore how the child's withdrawal can be best accommodated.
- If pupils are withdrawn from RE, schools have a duty to supervise them, though not to provide additional teaching or to incur extra cost. Pupils will usually remain on school premises.
- Where a pupil has been withdrawn, the law provides for alternative arrangements to be made for RE of the kind the parent wants the pupil to receive. This RE could be provided at the school in question, or the pupil could be sent to another school where suitable RE is provided if this is reasonably convenient.
- If neither approach is practicable, outside arrangements can be made to provide the pupil with the kind of RE that the parent wants, and the pupil may be withdrawn from school for a reasonable period of time to allow them to attend this external RE.
- Outside arrangements for RE are allowed as long as the LA SACRE (VC schools) or diocese (VA schools) is satisfied that any interference with the pupil's attendance at school resulting from the withdrawal will affect only the start or end of a school session.

Approval/review by governing body

Headteacher signed:

Date:

Chair of Governors signed:

Date:

Date of next review:

Date:

To be read in conjunction with school development plan, SEF and action plan for RE

APPENDIX ONE – Statement of Entitlement

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-02/RE%20Statement%20of%20Entitlement%20for%20Church%20Schools.pdf>

