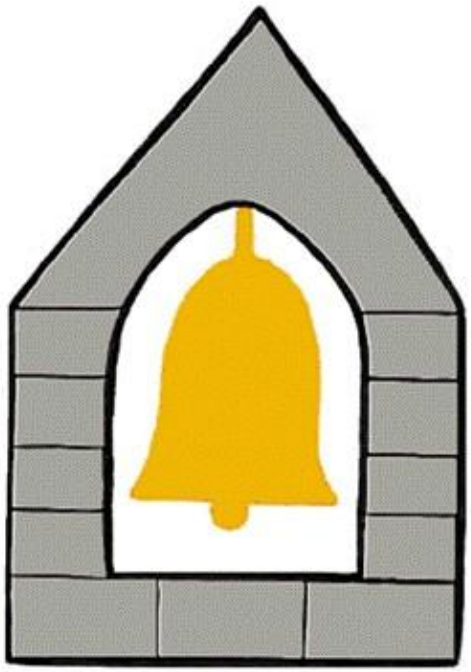
ODBE schools



Kirtlington
C.E. School

RE Policy

Date approved by governors: October 2025

Date for review: October 2026

Introduction

In Kirtlington CE Primary School, Religious Education (RE) plays an important role in expressing the theologically rooted Christian vision of the school. RE reflects the ethos and values that are held and promotes understanding of people of all faiths and worldviews, whether religious or not. RE has the same high status as any other subject and contributes to the overall development of our pupils from all backgrounds and traditions. RE expresses the school's distinctive Christian vision by broadening the children's horizons and exposing them to different views, beliefs and lifestyles to their own. Teaching fosters an understanding that there are many different viewpoints to pupils' own and an understanding that there are other beliefs than the ones they have grown up with, which have equal importance. This will then foster tolerance of others and the opportunity to experience different ideas and develop their own beliefs and spirituality. We want to produce well rounded children who realise that there are people with differences in gender, ethnicity, sexuality, religion and beliefs but that all people are equally important, unique and special. We want them to accept and celebrate what we are and what others are too, and we want them to know that we can be whatever we want to be by striving to be the best we can be using our God given talents, perseverance and resilience.

The Legal Position

Every maintained school in England must provide a basic curriculum (RE, sex and relationship education and the National Curriculum). This includes provision for RE for all registered pupils at the school, except for those withdrawn by their parents (see paragraph below). Following advice from the Oxford Diocesan Board of Education, and in discussion with staff, pupils and governors, leaders decided that religious education in our school should be based upon the Locally Agreed Syllabus alongside Understanding Christianity while also reflecting the requirements of the Statement of Entitlement for Religious Education published by the Education Office of the Church of England in February 2019. The statutory section 48 (SIAMS) inspection will evaluate RE and the way that it expresses the Christian vision of the school and look for evidence of the quality of teaching, progress and assessment, alongside the priority, provision and profile of RE as expressed through the quality of the curriculum. Religious education has the same status and importance as any other subject and, as such, the same high standards are applied to this as to other subjects.

Purpose and Aims of RE

The purpose of RE is to teach children about the religious and non-religious worldviews that they will encounter in modern Britain and enable them to engage in meaningful and considered dialogue with those of all faiths and worldviews. This is religious literacy.

Therefore, the aims of RE in our school are:

- 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 living, believing and thinking.

Curriculum and Time Allocation

The RE curriculum at Kirtlington CE Primary School, has been approved by the governors. Christianity is taught in every year group, with key concepts revisited on a spiral curriculum. **At least 50% of the time is devoted to Christianity**. Other religions are covered using a spiral curriculum in which each religion is taught each year, enabling a depth of understanding for pupils.

The total time for RE is between 5% and 10%, and it is taught in dedicated lessons, as well as cross-curricular settings as appropriate. **The time dedicated to RE is separate from the time given to Collective Worship.** In KS1 this will amount to approximately 36 hours per year; in KS2 this rises to 45 hours per year.

Teaching, Learning and Assessment

RE is taught using an enquiry-based approach, that is challenging and robust. Learning is organised to encourage the development of attitudes such as self-awareness, respect for all, open-mindedness, appreciation and wonder, as well as providing opportunities to engage appropriately with Fundamental British Values. All faiths are treated respectfully, and opportunities are made to engage in age-appropriate, meaningful discussion. Where possible, pupils will encounter members of a wide range of communities and visit places of worship.

A variety of resources, styles, and techniques will be used as appropriate to enable all children to make progress in RE regardless of their starting points, ability or background. See also our Special Educational Needs and Disability policy, Equality Policy and Plan and the National Society For Education's Flourishing for All (2004).

Assessment procedures will be robust and in line with the assessment procedures and feedback policy of the school, meeting the requirements of the syllabus or scheme that has been adopted. Assessment will largely be used to assess the effectiveness of the curriculum and of teaching and learning. Students will engage in a variety of activities which will also enable teachers to assess what they have learnt.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The RE subject leader and SLT will monitor teaching and learning in RE in accordance with school policy. The RE subject leader will observe teaching, conduct book and planning reviews and pupil interviews when appropriate to assess the quality of teaching and learning. The headteacher and governors will ensure that adequate monitoring takes place and that the impact of such activity is assessed.

Resources

The RE subject leader will ensure that RE resources are kept up-to-date and that staff are informed when new resources are purchased or made available electronically. Resources will include source materials (e.g. Bibles, visitors, artefacts) where appropriate and be treated with respect by all staff.

The Right of Withdrawal

Pupils may be withdrawn from RE or part of RE by a parent or guardian (or withdrawing themselves if they are aged 18 or over) in accordance with Schedule 19 to the School Standards and Framework Act 1998; teachers can exercise their right to withdraw from teaching the subject. However, we hope that all parents and teachers will feel comfortable with the type of religious education being taught at this school. Parents who wish to withdraw their children must provide written notification to this effect

and provide suitable activities for their children. The school will keep pupils safe but will not provide any work or reading material for pupils who have been withdrawn.

Policy Review

This policy should be reviewed regularly in line with schools' procedures. An annual review is recommended if possible, but review must be done within a 3-year period.