

St Margaret's C of E Junior School



Religious Education (RE) Policy

Our motto reflects our school ethos:

Everyone is valued

Everyone is motivated

Everyone achieves

Adopted as draft under consultation: 1st December 2023

Agreed by Governors: 14th March 2024

Signed (Governor Hub): Dr C Freeman (Chair of Governors) / Mr D Hugill (Headteacher)

Review date (earlier if amendments necessary/statutory): March 2026

St Margaret's CE Junior School

This policy has been written in the light of the [Church of England's Vision for Education](#) (Autumn 2016), [Valuing all God's Children](#) (Summer 2019) and through reflection on the 2023 [SIAMS Evaluation Framework](#) for schools.

Legal Position of Religious Education in School

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

St Margaret's is a Church of England Voluntary Controlled School and therefore follows the Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2023 – 2028.

Introduction

Religious Education (RE) is an academic, non-confessional subject, which is taught across the key stage. At St Margaret's CE Junior School, pupils and their families can expect a high quality RE curriculum that is challenging, rich and varied, enabling learners to acquire a thorough knowledge and understanding of a range of faiths and world views. As a Church of England school, the teaching of Christianity is at the heart of our RE curriculum. Using the Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus for RE and supported by the Understanding Christianity resource, we learn about other religions and world views, ensuring that pupils develop mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. Links with our school's Christian values and vision, and support for pupil's spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development are intrinsic to our RE curriculum and have a significant impact on learners. We provide a wide range of opportunities for learners to understand and make links between the beliefs, practices and value systems of the range of faiths and world views studied. Christian values permeate every area of school life and therefore, RE has a high profile. We have close links with the local St. Margaret's Church and the wider Christian community and are fortunate to have the faith commitment of governors and staff alike.

How we aim to deliver RE at our school

We deliver RE in accordance with the Church of England Education Office's [Statement of Entitlement](#). Within this framework our aims in RE are for pupils to:

- Acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and a range of world faiths and worldviews;
- Develop positive attitudes of mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs;
- Develop an understanding of the ways in which religious and non-religious beliefs, teachings, practices, values and traditions influence individuals, communities, societies and cultures, from the local to the global contexts;
- Develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues, with reference to the beliefs, teachings, practices, sources of authority and ways of living associated with the principle religions represented in the UK;
- Enhance their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development by:

- considering the big questions raised by human experience and reflecting on how religious and other traditions respond to them;
- Responding to such questions with reference to religious and non-religious beliefs, teachings, practices, values and traditions, relating them to their own understanding and experience;
- Reflecting on their own beliefs, values and experiences in light of their study of religious and non-religious worldviews.

Time Allocation

It is the expectation of the Church of England Education Office that RE should constitute a minimum of 5% curriculum time. This is in line with the recommendations made by the Dearing Report (1994). We meet this expectation by providing the minimum time of 45 hours per year for KS2. This time is arranged in a range of ways, including discrete weekly lessons and RE days. [RE curriculum time does not include values lessons, PSRHE or collective worship.](#)

RE Curriculum Design

Our RE curriculum is based on the Staffordshire locally agreed syllabus and is supported by the Understanding Christianity resource. The principal religious worldviews studied are Christianity, Judaism and Islam. It is not expected that pupils will study all six major world religions in depth during their time at St Margaret's C of E School, although they will have learning opportunities that allow them to encounter a range of religious worldviews. It is expected that pupils will also engage with non-religious worldviews, such as Humanism, as part of the RE curriculum. We carry out curriculum planning for RE in three phases (long-term, medium-term and short-term). The long-term plan (progression map) sets out the sequence of learning in RE; the medium-term plan gives details of each unit of study delivered to each Key Stage, identifying clearly the different types of knowledge developed through the sequence of learning. The class teacher writes the plans for each lesson. These are discussed on an informal basis with the RE Subject Leader and form part of the annual monitoring process for RE teaching and learning.

Curriculum Implementation

We ensure that teaching and learning in RE meets the needs of all pupils; the implementation of the curriculum focuses on ensuring all pupils develop the expected substantive, disciplinary and personal knowledge in RE. The impact of this is monitored by our school assessment system. We identify RE as one of the core subjects through which our pupils can develop spiritually, morally, socially and culturally, but we do not limit the delivery of SMSC to this subject alone. We provide an annual report of each child's progress in RE.

Resources

St Margaret's C of E School has invested in a wide range of appropriate books, artefacts, audio and visual resources, posters etc and the RE subject leader audits these resources annually. We take advice from the Diocesan RE Adviser and other RE professionals on the best resources to support the delivery of an effective RE curriculum.

Visits and Visitors

We consider that an essential element of the delivery of effective RE is encounter with a range of religious and non-religious worldviews. We encourage our pupils to participate in visits to places of worship when the opportunity arises; these visits are arranged in line with the programme of study for RE and provide pupils with the chance to encounter world religions as

living faiths in modern Britain. We also encourage members of different religious and non-religious worldviews to visit St Margaret's C of E School. These visits are arranged in accordance with the school's trips policy.

Supporting All Learners

Whole school policy with regards to SEND and adaptive teaching applies to RE. Teachers ensure that the learning activities employed in RE are adapted to meet a variety of learning needs. RE forms part of our commitment to provide a broad and balanced education to all children. Through our RE teaching, we provide learning opportunities that enable all pupils to make good progress. We strive to meet the needs of all pupils and we take all reasonable steps to achieve this. For further details, see separate school policies.

Inspection

The effectiveness of the RE curriculum is inspected as part of the Section 48 SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspection. St Margaret's Church of England School is a VC school. As such, progress and attainment in RE is not inspected as a distinct element of the Section 48 SIAMS inspection. It is the responsibility of the RE Subject Leader to review and maintain evidence for the RE elements of this inspection, with appropriate support from the head teacher, governors and Diocesan RE Adviser.

Monitoring and Review

We will review this policy bi-annually, with input from staff and governors. The RE Subject Leader will monitor the delivery of RE during each academic year to ensure that this policy is being appropriately implemented. Their role is to support and hold accountable all members of staff involved in the delivery of RE.

The RE Subject Leader works closely with senior leaders to enhance the provision of RE over time and keep up to date with relevant developments.

Withdrawal from RE

We acknowledge the right of parents/guardians to withdraw their children from RE lessons and of teachers to withdraw from teaching the subject. We acknowledge that parents/guardians/teachers do not need to provide a reason why they wish to withdraw from the subject. Should a parent/guardian wish to consider withdrawing their child from RE lessons or a teacher wish to refuse to teach RE, they should contact the RE lead or headteacher. Should a parent/guardian request that their child be withdrawn from RE, we will endeavour to communicate clearly the place of RE within a broad and balanced curriculum to ensure that they are in possession of all the necessary information before confirming their decision.

We require that written notice of withdrawal to be sent to the RE Subject Leader/Headteacher/school governors.