



Blackfordby St. Margaret's CofE Primary School

Religious Education Policy

Date: September 2026

Date of Review: September 2029

School Vision

'By their fruits shall you know them' (Matthew 12:33)

At Blackfordby St. Maragret's CofE Primary School, our Christian vision shapes all aspects of school life. We aspire to provide an inclusive, nurturing and academically ambitious education in which every member of our community is valued as a unique individual created in the image of God.

Religious Education plays a central role in enabling pupils to flourish intellectually, spiritually, morally, socially and culturally. Through high-quality Religious Education, pupils are equipped to understand Christianity as a living faith whilst engaging respectfully and critically with a range of religions and worldviews.

Statement of Intent

Religious Education is a rigorous academic discipline at the heart of our curriculum. As a Church of England school, RE reflects our Christian foundation whilst welcoming and valuing pupils of all faiths and none.

In line with the National Society's Religious Education Statement of Entitlement, RE enables pupils to:

- become religiously literate;
- develop a deep understanding of Christianity as a living and diverse global faith;
- explore a range of religious and non-religious worldviews;
- consider important questions about meaning, purpose, truth and identity;
- develop critical thinking and enquiry skills;
- understand the impact of belief on individuals, communities and societies;
- engage in respectful dialogue across difference.

Our RE curriculum encourages pupils to explore their own beliefs and values whilst developing respect, empathy and understanding for others whilst offering opportunities to develop their understanding of our school values; faith, hope and love.

Legal Requirements

Blackfordby St. Maragret's CofE Primary School is part of the Rise Multi Academy Trust.

Religious Education is a statutory entitlement for all pupils and forms part of a broad and balanced curriculum.

Religious Education is provided in accordance with:

- A locally agreed syllabus is a statutory syllabus for RE (Leicestershire Agreed Syllabus 2026–2031)
- NSRE Religious Education Statement of Entitlement for Church of England Schools January 2026

As a Church of England school, Christianity is taught as the principal religion and is studied in every year group. Pupils will also encounter a range of other religious and non-religious worldviews, reflecting the diversity of modern Britain and the wider world.

Curriculum Time

Religious Education occupies a minimum of 5% of curriculum time.

This equates to approximately:

Key Stage 1

- 36 hours per year
- Approximately 45 minutes per week

Key Stage 2

- 45 hours per year
- Approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes per week

At Blackfordby St. Maragret's, RE may be delivered through:

- weekly lessons;
- RE enrichment sessions;
- educational visits;
- visitors and faith community engagement.

These approaches enhance but do not replace regular and progressive RE teaching.

In EYFS, pupils follow the requirements of the Leicestershire Agreed Syllabus and encounter Christianity alongside other religious and non-religious worldviews through planned learning, continuous provision, stories, visits and discussion.

Aims of Religious Education

Through Religious Education, pupils will:

Make sense of beliefs

- Understand and interpret a range of religious and non-religious beliefs.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity as a living faith.
- Explore similarities and differences within and between religions and worldviews.

Understand the impact

- Examine how beliefs influence individuals, communities and societies.
- Understand how religious and non-religious worldviews shape behaviour, values and decision-making.
- Recognise the contribution of faith communities to local, national and global life.

Make connections

- Reflect upon personal beliefs and values.
- Engage with challenging questions about meaning, purpose and truth.
- Develop reasoned viewpoints based on evidence and respectful dialogue.

Curriculum Intent

Our curriculum is designed to:

- develop secure substantive knowledge about Christianity and other religions and worldviews;
- promote religious literacy;
- deepen understanding through theological, philosophical and human/social science approaches;
- ensure progression from EYFS to Year 6;
- encourage curiosity, critical thinking and respectful discussion;
- prepare pupils to live well together in a diverse society.

The curriculum enables pupils to learn both about and from religion and worldviews.

Teaching and Learning

Religious Education is primarily taught by class teachers and supported by the RE Subject Leader and appropriate visitors. We use NATRE resources to support teaching and learning for the locally agreed syllabus.

Teaching will:

- be engaging and intellectually challenging;
- draw upon authentic sources and artefacts;
- encourage enquiry and discussion;
- provide opportunities for reflection;
- support pupils in expressing and evaluating views respectfully.

A range of pedagogical approaches will be used, including:

- storytelling;
- theological enquiry;
- philosophical discussion;

- questioning and debate;
- role play and drama;
- independent and collaborative research;
- educational visits;
- use of technology and multimedia resources;
- encounters with members of faith and belief communities.

RE lessons will be recorded in a class floor book. This is to develop the children's philosophical, theological and critical thinking skills. The use of floor books allows increased learning time for discussions and questioning leading to deeper thinking.

Inclusion

Religious Education is for all pupils.

Teachers will ensure learning is accessible and appropriately challenging through:

- adaptive teaching strategies;
- appropriate scaffolding;
- use of visual and practical resources;
- targeted adult support where necessary;
- extension opportunities for pupils requiring greater challenge.

RE contributes significantly to the promotion of equality, diversity and inclusion and helps pupils develop respect for people from different backgrounds, beliefs and cultures.

Assessment

Assessment in Religious Education is integral to teaching and learning.

Teachers assess pupils' progress through:

- discussion and questioning;
- observation of learning;
- written outcomes;
- practical activities;
- presentations and performances;

Assessment focuses upon pupils' development of:

- substantive knowledge;
- disciplinary knowledge;
- religious literacy;
- understanding of Christianity and other worldviews;
- ability to analyse, interpret and evaluate.

Teachers use assessment information to inform planning and ensure progression.

The RE Subject Leader maintains examples of pupil work that demonstrate progression across the school.

Withdrawal from Religious Education

Parents retain the legal right to withdraw their child wholly or partly from Religious Education.

The Headteacher will discuss any request with parents to ensure they understand:

- the aims and content of the RE curriculum;
- the difference between Religious Education and Collective Worship;
- the educational value of RE.

Where a pupil is withdrawn, the school will provide appropriate supervision but is not required to provide alternative Religious Education.

Requests for withdrawal should be made in writing to the Headteacher.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring of RE is the responsibility of the RE Subject Leader.

This includes:

- reviewing planning and curriculum implementation;
- monitoring pupil outcomes;
- reviewing books and evidence of learning;
- pupil voice activities;
- lesson visits;
- supporting staff development;
- monitoring resource provision.

The RE Subject Leader will report annually to the Headteacher and Governors on:

- strengths within the subject;
- areas for development;
- curriculum effectiveness;
- pupil achievement.

A named governor with responsibility for Religious Education will meet regularly with the RE Subject Leader and monitor implementation of this policy.

Links with Collective Worship

Whilst Religious Education and Collective Worship are distinct statutory requirements, they are complementary aspects of the school's Christian character.

Religious Education is an academic subject that develops knowledge, understanding and critical enquiry.

Collective Worship provides opportunities for reflection, prayer and spiritual development.

Together they contribute to the flourishing of all pupils and adults within our school community.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed every three years or sooner if national, diocesan or local guidance changes.