



The John Wesley Church of England and Methodist Aided Primary School

Religious Education Policy

Written	December 2019 Updated January 2022
Date Agreed	January 2022
Date Policy to be Reviewed	January 2024

Flourishing in F.A.I.T.H. (Family, All Included, Thriving & Healthy)

At The John Wesley Church of England & Methodist Primary School, our vision of life without limits in all its fullness puts our children and families at the centre of everything. In our inclusive and unique community with two distinctively Christian foundations, every experience enables all to flourish as individuals and to thrive as God intended; mentally, physically, emotionally and spiritually.

The school welcomes everyone to its family and upholds the principles and teachings of the Christian faith. We provide a secure, caring learning environment, which supports and encourages all to fulfil their potential.

The John Wesley is a Church of England and Methodist Voluntary Aided Primary School and our Christian values are at the heart of everything we do.

- ❖ **Koinonia**
- ❖ **Love**
- ❖ **Compassion**
- ❖ **Wisdom**
- ❖ **Forgiveness**
- ❖ **Service**

These are underpinned by our learning values:

- ❖ **Promoting curiosity** – asking questions, delving deeper and analysing
- ❖ **Developing communication** – listening, empathy and relationship-building
- ❖ **‘Prove it’ opportunities** – problem solving, decision making and exploration
- ❖ **Sharing views and opinions** – visual, spoken and written
- ❖ **Encouraging creativity** – innovation, imagination and spirituality

Our whole school vision is built upon and guided by these. Every school policy is written with this in mind and implemented in way that reflects our vision of our children being able to ‘**Flourishing in F.A.I.T.H**’ (Family, All Included, Thriving & Healthy)’ and as Jesus gave his disciples a vision of a life that is full of possibilities and dreams yet to be met, we encourage our children to live their life in all its fullness.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

Religious Education should enable every child to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10). It will help educate for dignity and respect encouraging all to live well together. Such an approach is offered through a commitment to generous hospitality, being true to our underpinning faiths, but with a deep respect for the integrity of other religious traditions (and worldviews) and for the religious freedom of each person.

(Religious Education Statement of Entitlement February 2019).

1. INTRODUCTION

At The John Wesley Primary Church of England & Methodist Primary School, pupils and their families can expect a high quality Religious Education (R.E) curriculum that is rich and varied, enabling learners to acquire a thorough knowledge and understanding of a range of faiths and world views. As a church school, the teaching of Christianity is at the heart of our R.E curriculum. Through the Understanding Christianity resource, the use of an enquiry approach engages with significant theological concepts and the pupil's own understanding of the world as part of their wider religious literacy. Using the Canterbury and Rochester Diocesan syllabus we learn about other religions and world views, fostering respect for them. Links with our Christian values and vision, and support for pupil's spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development are intrinsic to our R.E curriculum and have a significant impact on learners. We provide a wide range of opportunities for learners to understand and to make links between the beliefs, practices and value systems of the range of faiths and world views studied.

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

As stated in the Church of England Statement of Entitlement for Religious Education, our school aims for all pupils:

- 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 of living, believing and thinking.

Religious Education is taught throughout the school in such a way as to reflect the overall aims, values, of the school. At The John Wesley CEM Primary School, Religious Education plays an important role, along with all other curriculum areas, in promoting the spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development of our children.

3. CURRICULUM FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

R.E is an academic subject that has a high profile in our school curriculum. It is a priority for our senior leaders, who ensure that the teaching, learning and resourcing of R.E is comparable with other curriculum subjects.

This means that the R.E curriculum:

- is intrinsic to the outworking of our distinctive Christian vision in enabling all pupils to flourish. In addition, it contributes to British values and to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- is delivered in an objective, critical and pluralistic manner to engage and challenge all pupils through an exploration of core concepts and questions. Lessons provide meaningful and informed dialogue with a range of religions and worldviews.
- reflects a good balance between the disciplines of theology, philosophy and human science, to enable pupils to develop their religious literacy*
**Religious Literacy: Helping children and young people hold balanced and well-informed conversations about religion and belief. (Key Principles of a balanced curriculum in RE.)*
- enables pupils to acquire a rich, deep knowledge and understanding of Christian belief and practice, including the ways in which it is unique and diverse, whilst engaging with biblical texts and theological ideas.
- provides opportunities for pupils to understand the role of foundational texts, beliefs, rituals, and practices and how they help to form identity in a range of religions and worldviews.
- supports the development of other curriculum areas and other general educational abilities such as literacy, empathy and the ability to express thoughts, feelings and personal beliefs.
- encompasses the full range of abilities to ensure that all flourish academically, using a wide range of teaching and learning strategies which consider the task, outcome, resource, support and pupil grouping as appropriate to pupils' needs.
- offers tasks that are age appropriate, challenging and sufficiently demanding to stimulate and engage all pupils, whilst extending the most able and providing support for those who need it.
- ensures that all pupils' contributions are valued in R.E as they draw on their own experiences and beliefs.

At The John Wesley CEM Primary School, it has been agreed that having taken into account the requirements and guidelines presented in the Kent Agreed Syllabus, the following religions have been selected for study:

Christianity

Islam

Judaism

Hinduism

Sikhism

To teach Islam, Judaism, Hinduism and Sikhism we follow the World Faiths units provided by the Diocese.

At The John Wesley CEM Primary School, we use 'Understanding Christianity' as our key resource for teaching Christianity. 'Understanding Christianity' is a spiral curriculum, delving into eight units which are revisited and built upon as your child progresses through the school.

'Understanding Christianity' will:

- Provide your child with a theological and conceptual basis of Christianity through exploring Christian accounts of the 'big story' of salvation
- Provide a clear outline of core knowledge in relation to Christianity
- Explore essential background information to Christian concepts
- Teach children how to use the Bible and apply teachings to their own lives

'Understanding Christianity' aims to see children leave The John Wesley CEM Primary School with a coherent understanding of Christian belief and practice. Additionally, we follow the Kent Agreed Syllabus, every child leaves our school with knowledge about Islam, Judaism, Hinduism and Sikhism.

At The John Wesley CEM Primary School, we are a Church of England Methodist Voluntarily Aided school which means that we are privileged to be involved with both churches. As a school, we have developed a positive working relationship with both churches.

Due to our links with the Methodist Church, we also teach from the Methodist Units of Study. Units 1 and 2 are taught in Years 1,2, 4 and 5. These units focus on:

- Community and the importance of belonging to a community
- What it feels like to experience God
- The life of John Wesley

4. CURRICULUM BALANCE AND TIME

Reflecting the school's funding agreement parents and pupils are entitled to expect that, in Church schools, Christianity should be the majority religion studied in each year group and should be at least 50% of curriculum time. Sufficient dedicated curriculum time, meeting explicitly R.E objectives, however organised, should be committed to the delivery of R.E. This should aim to be close to 10% but must be no less than 5% in Key Stage 1 and 2.

See Appendix 1 for Kent Agreed Syllabus Overview

Schools must take note that the R.E entitlement is totally separate from requirements for collective worship. Collective worship must not be considered curriculum time for R.E or the teaching of R.E.

5. TEACHING AND LEARNING

Learning activities provide fully for the needs of all pupils, so that they develop a wide range of skills including enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and reflection. R.E lessons provide a safe space to explore their own religious, spiritual and/or philosophical ways of seeing, living and thinking, believing and belonging. They provide opportunities to engage in meaningful and informed dialogue with those of all religions and worldviews.

Pupils experience opportunities to learn and express themselves through an enquiry-based style of learning by:

- Posing and discussing 'big' and challenging questions
- Reading and critically analysing texts
- Interpreting information from different sources
- Seeking information for themselves in libraries and on computers
- Listening to and discussing with the teacher and other pupils
- Engaging in pair and group work
- Exploring a range of media such as artefacts, pictures, photographs, music and drama
- Experiencing visits and visitors
- Taking part in outdoor learning
- Taking time for reflection

Teaching in R.E challenges stereotypes, misinformation and misconceptions about race, gender and religion. Lessons seek to present religions and world views in all their richness and diversity in terms of beliefs, traditions, customs and lifestyle in a sensitive and accurate way in order to encourage a positive attitude towards diversity. All questions, views, and opinions are treated with sensitivity and respect.

Teachers establish clear links between elements of religious belief and practice and aspects of the children's own lives. Teaching enables pupils to gain something of personal value from their study of religious belief and practice, for example, the way that they might apply insights gained from religious stories to their own lives.

6. CROSS-CURRICULAR LINKS

Religious education supports the development of general educational abilities such as literacy, empathy and the ability to express thoughts, feelings and personal beliefs. R.E also makes a major contribution to pupils' SMSC development. It addresses issues which arise in a range of subjects including English and Drama, Computing and our Connected Learning subjects such as Art, History, Geography, Science and Music as well as personal, social, health and emotional education and citizenship.

7. HEALTH AND SAFETY

Health and safety issues may arise in religious education on a number of occasions for example, when pupils:

- Handle artefacts
- Consume food
- Visit places of worship

Teachers will conform to guidelines in the school's health and safety policy in these circumstances.

8. ASSESSMENT, RECORDING AND REPORTING

Assessment in religious education will:

- Involve identifying suitable opportunities in schemes of work such as Understanding Christianity, the Methodist Units of study and the World Faith units.
- Be directly related to the expectations of the Canterbury and Rochester Diocesan syllabus.
- Seek to identify development in the different areas of learning in the subject and not only in the acquisition of factual knowledge.
- Recognise the range of skills and attitudes which the subject seeks to develop.
- Employ well defined criteria for marking and assessment which identify progress and achievement as well as effort, following the school's marking policy.
- Include pupil self-assessment.
- Enable effective tracking of pupil progress to identify areas for development in pupil's knowledge and understanding, as well as whole school areas for development.
- Enable effective reporting to parents.

9. ROLE OF THE R.E SUBJECT LEADERS

The subject leader will:

- Ensure that all pupils receive their legal entitlement of religious education.
- Ensure R.E provision reflects the [Church of England Statement of Entitlement](#).
- Produce and regularly review a subject policy to ensure that it remains up to date.
- Ensure all teachers know what should be taught in religious education, what resources are available, and what standards of attainment are expected at the end of each Key Stage.
- Monitor and review the implementation of policy and units of work.
- Monitor the quality and effectiveness of teaching and learning in R.E and pupils' progress and standards.
- Ensure there are rigorous assessment systems in place to enable teachers and pupils to gauge progress and attainment in R.E.
- Monitor, analyse and question R.E assessments carried out by staff.

- Liaise with the HT and Governors to feedback on the monitoring and impact of R.E across the school.
- Support colleagues by sharing new ideas and pedagogy, to help develop their subject confidence and expertise through CPD opportunities and support sessions.
- Seek opportunities to share effective practice locally and regionally and engage in professional development for themselves and other staff members.
- Oversee the R.E budget and monitor R.E resources to ensure they are kept and stored respectfully and replaced where necessary.
- Ensure there is a school protocol, that covers safeguarding procedures and a suitability process, for when visitors are invited into RE lessons.

10. RESOURCES

The school uses a range of resources on different religions, such as books for teachers, pupils and the library; posters, CDs, DVDs and artefacts. The school makes use of guidance material produced by the Diocese. Where possible, visits to different places of worship happens and INSET for staff is provided. All resources are listed, stored, easily accessible and kept in good condition. Resource banks will be available for both staff and pupils on all major religions and world views as appropriate.

11. LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Religious education must be provided for all registered pupils in full time education except those withdrawn at their parents' request (or their own request if aged 18 or over). (*DfE Circular 1/94, paragraphs 44 & 49, and Non-Statutory Guidance 2010 page 28*)

The law relating to religious education for pupils who are not yet in Key stage 1 is different from that relating to subjects of the National Curriculum. As Religious Education must be taught to 'all registered pupils at the school', it includes pupils in Reception classes, but not those in Nursery classes or play groups.

The school must comply with any request from a parent to withdraw their child and parents are not required to give their reasons for wanting to do so. However, in view of the Christian ethos and distinctive Christian character of our school, we would hope that all children admitted will participate fully in R.E., and that anyone wishing to withdraw their child would discuss this with the Headteacher before making this decision.

**APPENDIX 1
KENT AGREED SYLLABUS INCORPORATING UNDERSTANDING CHRISTIANITY AND METHODIST UNITS OF STUDY**

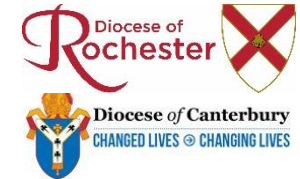
Black = Understanding Christianity units

Red = RE Today units of work

Blue = Diocesan units of work

Green = other

Purple = Methodist



	AUTUMN		SPRING		SUMMER	
Reception	<p>CREATION Why is the word 'God' so important to Christians?</p>	<p>OLD TESTAMENT STORIES Which stories are special and why?</p> <p>INCARNATION Why do Christians perform Nativity plays at Christmas?</p>	<p>NEW TESTAMENT STORIES Which stories are special and why?</p>	<p>SALVATION Why do Christians put a cross in an Easter garden?</p>	<p>WORLD FAITH STORIES Which stories are special and why?</p>	<p>WORLD FAITH STORIES Which stories are special and why?</p>

Year 1	<p>GOD What do Christians believe that God is like? <i>CORE LEARNING</i></p>	<p>METHODIST UNIT (4 weeks) Belonging together: Why does it matter to be part of a community</p> <p>INCARNATION (2/3 weeks) Why does Christmas matter to Christians? <i>CORE LEARNING</i></p>	<p>GOSPEL What is the good news that Jesus brings? <i>CORE LEARNING</i></p>	<p>SALVATION Why does Easter matter to Christians? <i>CORE LEARNING</i></p>	<p>JUDAISM Who is Jewish and what do they believe?</p>	<p>JUDAISM Who is Jewish and what do they believe?</p>
---------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------

Year 2	CREATION Who made the world? <i>CORE LEARNING</i>	METHODIST UNIT (4 weeks) What can we learn about Christians and community life? INCARNATION (2/3 weeks) Why does Christmas matter to Christians? <i>DIGGING DEEPER</i>	GOSPEL What is the good news that Jesus brings? <i>DIGGING DEEPER</i>	SALVATION Why does Easter matter to Christians? <i>DIGGING DEEPER</i>	ISLAM Who is a Muslim and what do they believe?	ISLAM Who is a Muslim and what do they believe?
---------------	----------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------

Year 3	PEOPLE OF GOD What is it like to follow God? <i>CORE LEARNING</i>	SIKHISM What is important for Sikh people? INCARNATION theme 2 lessons	INCARNATION What is the Trinity? <i>CORE LEARNING</i>	SALVATION Why do Christians call the day Jesus died 'Good Friday'? <i>CORE LEARNING</i>	KINGDOM OF GOD When Jesus left, what was the impact of Pentecost? <i>CORE LEARNING</i>	SIKHISM How do Sikh people worship and celebrate?
---------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------

Year 4	CREATION What do Christians learn from the Creation story? <i>CORE LEARNING</i>	METHODIST UNIT (2 weeks) Warm hearts: What does it feel like to experience God's presence? INCARNATION (2/3 weeks) What is the Trinity? <i>DIGGING DEEPER</i>	GOSPEL What kind of a world did Jesus want? <i>CORE LEARNING</i>	SALVATION Why do Christians call the day Jesus died 'Good Friday'? <i>DIGGING DEEPER</i>	HINDUISM What does it mean to be a Hindu in Britain today?	Why do some people think that life is a journey and what significant experiences mark this? <i>See updated plan</i>
---------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<p>Year 5</p>	<p>GOD What does it mean if God is loving and holy? <i>CORE LEARNING</i></p>	<p>METHODIST UNIT (4 weeks) The life of John Wesley INCARNATION (2/3 weeks) Was Jesus the Messiah? <i>CORE LEARNING</i></p>	<p>PEOPLE OF GOD How can following God bring freedom and justice? <i>CORE LEARNING</i></p>	<p>SALVATION What did Jesus do to save human beings? <i>CORE LEARNING</i></p>	<p>JUDAISM What does it mean to be Jewish in Britain today?</p>	<p>ISLAM What does it mean to be a Muslim in Britain today? (Part 1) See separate guidance*</p>
<p>Year 6</p>	<p>CREATION Creation and science: conflicting or complementary? in the wider context of 'Big Questions' <i>CORE LEARNING</i></p>	<p>GOSPEL What would Jesus do? <i>CORE LEARNING</i> INCARNATION theme 2 lessons</p>	<p>ISLAM What does it mean to be a Muslim in Britain today? (Part 2) See separate guidance*</p>	<p>SALVATION What difference does the resurrection make for Christians? <i>CORE LEARNING</i></p>	<p>UNIVERSAL Is it better to express your beliefs in arts and architecture or in charity and generosity?</p>	<p>KINGDOM OF GOD What kind of king is Jesus? <i>CORE LEARNING</i></p>