



Kirkby on Bain Church of England Primary School

Religious Education Policy

Approved: May 2026

Review Date: May 2028

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Religious Education Policy

Our Vision

We care, learn, discover and grow together, aspiring to make a difference to our own lives and to those of others.

Motivated and inspired by the parable of the Good Samaritan, Luke 10:25-37, we give our all, to all, through our embedded Christian values. Our pupils and staff aspire to embody these, in everything they do, reflecting, and striving to be the best they can be. We value and encourage the contribution that our pupils and all stakeholders make to our school and the wider community, regardless of background, culture or faith. Striving to enthuse and inspire our pupils, we challenge and support their growth into respectful; confident; independent; self-motivated and curious individuals. We 'live' together as a family of individuals of inherent value, celebrating our differences and dwelling together in unity.

Our tagline:

'Learning together for life, life in all its fullness'

This policy should be read in conjunction with other policies in school and the school's RE Progression document: Collective Worship, PSHE/RSHE, Curriculum, Marking and Feedback.

The Context

Kirkby on Bain Church of England Primary School is a small, rural school for children in the age range 4 to 11.

As a Church of England school, we recognise the core place that RE occupies as part of a broad and balanced curriculum. We also understand the contribution of effective RE towards our theologically rooted Christian vision.

We recognise the religious and non-religious backgrounds that make up our school community, and we respect this variety of backgrounds in the spirit of Christian welcome. We are glad to have good relationships with faith practitioners from a range of world faiths, and we value their contribution to our provision of effective RE.

We promote key British Values, including respect for and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs and provide opportunities for the spiritual development of children and adults, aligning strongly with the work of Rebecca Nye and Relational Awareness. Our use of golden threads for our wider curriculum link clearly to the concepts of 'Self', 'Others', 'World and Beauty' and 'Beyond'. We actively seek to prepare our pupils for life in modern Britain. We challenge racism and all forms of prejudice, and we see RE as one curriculum area in which our pupils can encounter and critically reflect on a range of worldviews. This stance also provides a backbone to our entire school community and our aim to enable all members to flourish as human beings, throughout their journey through our school, their long-term education and as adults.

The Purpose of RE at Kirkby on Bain VA Church of England School

We teach RE as a core part of our school curriculum to help our pupils develop their religion and worldview literacy. We understand this to be our pupils' ability to hold informed, balanced and critically-engaged conversations about religions and beliefs, including their own. RE in our school is delivered in an objective, critical and pluralist manner.

The Aims of RE at Kirkby on Bain VA Church of England School

RE at Kirkby on Bain VA Church of England School will be provided within legal requirements. These are as follows:

1. The Basic Curriculum must include provision for RE for all pupils registered on the school roll, including those in Reception class who are less than five years old.
2. The content of RE must reflect the fact that the religious traditions of Great Britain are, in the main, Christian; it must also reflect the teaching and practices of the other principal religious traditions represented in Great Britain.

As a Voluntary Aided (VA) church school, it is the responsibility of the governing board to identify the most appropriate RE curriculum for pupils. Having considered a number of different options, the governors have chosen to utilise the Lincoln Diocesan Board of Education's primary RE curriculum in this school.

We deliver RE in accordance with the Church of England Education Office's *Statement of Entitlement*. We also pay due attention to the [Ofsted RE Research Review \(2021\)](#), the [National Content Standard for Religious Education \(2023\)](#) and the [Ofsted RE subject report \(2024\)](#).

Within this context, our aims in RE are for pupils to:

- Acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and a range of other religious and non-religious worldviews;
- 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 principal religions represented in the UK;
- Develop positive attitudes of mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs;
- 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 36 hours per year for KS1 and 45 hours per year for KS2. This time is arranged as discrete weekly lessons, blocked time and/or RE days.

RE forms part of the planning at EYFS; although there is no expected time allocation at this level, we expect that there will be connections made between RE and the Early Years areas of learning. RE curriculum time does not include values lessons, collective worship or assembly.

RE Curriculum Design/Our Intent

We follow the LDBE Primary RE curriculum. There is a breadth of religious and non-religious worldviews covered across EYFS, KS1 and KS2 including Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hindu Dharma, Sikhism and Humanism. Buddhism will be taught in KS2. The curriculum overview is published on our school website, and this includes further detail about when each of the religious and non-religious worldviews will be covered across the year groups. It is not expected that pupils will study all six major world religions in depth during their time at Kirkby on Bain VA Church of England School, although they will have learning opportunities that allow them to encounter a range of religious and non-religious worldviews.

We carry out curriculum planning for RE in three phases (long-term, medium-term and short-term). The long-term plan maps 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. As we have mixed-age classes, we carry out the medium-term planning on a two-year cycle. The class teacher writes the short-term 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 through regular formative and summative assessment processes. 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 on each pupil's progress in RE. This report will be based on regular monitoring of work in RE using a variety of methods, including verbal feedback, evidence folders/big books and written comments on individual pieces of work.

Teaching is planned from the LDBE RE curriculum which identifies core substantive, disciplinary and personal knowledge and uses the disciplinary lenses of 'believing' (theology), 'living' (human and social sciences) and 'thinking' (philosophy) to scaffold the learning. The curriculum overview maps the sequence of this learning in RE. Opportunities to positively reinforce learning through global or national events are used, usually at the discretion of the class teacher. Lessons require pupils to develop their ability to analyse, evaluate and compare between their developing understanding and prior learning about other religious and non-religious worldviews.

Resources

Kirkby on Bain VA Church of England School has invested in a wide range of appropriate books, artefacts, audio and visual resources, posters, persona dolls, 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. Advice to enable parents to support their child's learning in RE can be requested from the class teacher, if required.

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 Kirkby on Bain VA Church of England School. These visits are arranged in accordance with the school's trips policy. Pupils will not be asked, expected or required to participate in or perform acts of religious worship or practice as part of the RE curriculum. This includes worship practices associated with any faith, including Christianity. There may be times when pupils have the opportunity to encounter and explore lived religion and belief. These opportunities are always invitational, and parents/carers will be informed in advance that this is how the curriculum will be delivered so that they have time to raise any concerns or exercise their legal right to withdraw their child(ren) from the learning.

Supporting All Learners

Our 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. Planning is adapted to best support the progression of pupils in each class, consulting with the class teacher if there is any major variation.

Inspection

The effectiveness of the RE curriculum is inspected as part of the Section 48 SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspection. Kirkby on Bain VA Church of England School is a Voluntary Aided school. As such, progress and attainment in RE is 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 intend that this policy should operate for the next 2 years and then be fully reviewed by 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. To this end, they will ask each member of staff involved in the delivery of RE to provide a copy of their medium-term planning for RE, along with a folder of evidence of pupil progress in RE during each academic year. The RE Subject Leader must evaluate their own leadership of the subject during each academic year. Using a self-evaluation tool, such as the school evaluation form for the RE Quality Mark, the RE Subject Leader must work with their line manager to ensure that leadership of RE remains a high priority and is of a high quality.

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 withdraw their child from RE lessons or a teacher wish to refuse to teach RE, we ask that they inform the school, via the admin@kobps.lincs.sch.uk email address.

We will endeavour to communicate clearly the place of RE within a broad and balanced curriculum to ensure that parents are in possession of all the necessary information. However, should a parent/guardian request that their child be withdrawn from RE, we will not attempt to persuade them to alter their decision.

If a pupil is withdrawn from RE lessons, the school is required to provide supervision *but should not incur any additional cost in so doing*.

Any queries regarding withdrawal from RE should be directed to the RE Subject Leader, Mrs Shawyer, in the first instance, and thereafter to the head teacher.

This policy will be reviewed biannually. The next date of review will be: **May 2028**.