



## Religious Education (RE) Policy

### Vision Statement

#### ***“Learning in God’s Love”***

**“Stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.” (1 Corinthians 16:13–14)**

At St Paul’s CofE Primary School and Nursery, our vision is that everyone knows that they are loved and valued by God. We help everyone to grow in courage and compassion. Children are encouraged to reach their full potential and flourish as they learn together as a community.

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### 1. Introduction

At St Paul’s, pupils and their families can expect a high-quality Religious Education (RE) curriculum that is rich, varied, and academically rigorous.

As a Church of England school, Christianity forms the major theme of our RE teaching. However, we also ensure pupils gain knowledge and understanding of other major world religions and worldviews. This approach helps children to:

- Develop respect for people of all faiths and none.
- Gain a deeper insight into the diverse world in which they live.
- Reflect on their own beliefs and identity.

We want every child to leave St Paul’s knowing they are valued, unique, and wonderful—because God made them that way.

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### 2. Aims and Objectives

In line with the Church of England’s Statement of Entitlement for Religious Education, our aims are for all pupils:

- To know about and understand Christianity as a diverse, global, living faith through exploration of core beliefs and engagement with biblical texts.
- To gain knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews, appreciating both diversity and continuity.
- To engage with challenging questions of meaning, purpose, and human existence.
- To recognise the concept of religion and its continuing influence on culture, heritage, and society in Britain and beyond.
- To explore their own religious, spiritual, and philosophical ways of living, believing, and thinking.

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## Religious Education (RE) Policy

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### 3. Curriculum for Religious Education

RE has a high profile in our school curriculum and is comparable in quality, resources, and teaching time to other core subjects.

Our curriculum:

- Is intrinsic to the outworking of our Christian vision, enabling all pupils to flourish.
- Contributes to pupils' spiritual, moral, social, and cultural (SMSC) development and supports British values.
- Is delivered in an objective, critical, and pluralistic manner, encouraging meaningful dialogue between different worldviews.
- Balances the disciplines of theology, philosophy, and human sciences to develop religious literacy.\*
- Provides pupils with a rich knowledge of Christian belief and practice, while engaging with foundational texts, beliefs, rituals, and traditions across faiths.
- Ensures all pupils are challenged, supported, and included, enabling every child to succeed.

\*Religious literacy: the ability to hold balanced and well-informed conversations about religion and belief.

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### 4. Scheme of Learning

St Paul's follows the Guildford Diocese Syllabus for Religious Education. A detailed scheme of work is available to teachers, governors, and other interested parties.

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### 5. Visits and Visitors

We make full use of our close links with St Paul's Church, Tongham, where pupils visit regularly. We also welcome our vicar, Revd Claire Holt, into school to enrich RE learning.

Special events include Pause Days for Christmas and Easter. Year One visit Guildford Cathedral at Christmas.

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### 6. Curriculum Balance and Time

- RE should account for approximately 10% of curriculum time, and never less than 5% in Key Stage 1.
  - RE entitlement is distinct from collective worship. Time allocated for worship must not be considered part of the RE curriculum.
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### 7. Teaching and Learning

RE is taught through an enquiry-based approach, encouraging curiosity, reflection, and dialogue.

Pupils learn through:

- Posing and exploring “big questions.”
- Interpreting information from varied sources.
- Engaging in discussion, debate, and group work.
- Exploring artefacts, art, drama, music, and story.
- Welcoming visitors and visiting places of worship.
- Outdoor learning and reflective activities.

Teachers link religious beliefs and practices to pupils’ own experiences, encouraging them to reflect on personal meaning and apply insights to their own lives.

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### 8. Cross-Curricular Links

RE contributes to the wider curriculum by developing:

- Literacy, empathy, and critical thinking.
- Skills of enquiry, analysis, interpretation, and reflection.
- SMSC development and preparation for life in modern Britain.

It also supports learning in English, history, geography, art, drama, computing, music, and personal, social, and emotional education (PSE).

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### 9. Legal Requirements

The national curriculum requires that:

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“Every state-funded school must offer a curriculum which is balanced and broadly based, and which:

- Promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils; and
- Prepares pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

All state schools must teach religious education... All schools must publish their curriculum by subject and academic year online.”

*(National Curriculum in England: Framework Document, DfE, 2013)*

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## 10. Monitoring and Review

The impact of RE is monitored by the RE subject leader through lesson observations, book scrutiny, pupil voice, and assessment outcomes.

This policy will be reviewed every two years by the RE subject leader in consultation with staff, governors, and the local church community.

Reviewed April 2026

Next review April 2028

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