



Religious Education Policy

Policy LAB Approval: October 2024

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Date of next review: Summer Term 2025

Policy Owner: Headteacher- Emma Rose

Our Vision

At Pinvin we are a caring inclusive school, where everyone is welcome as Jesus welcomed all. We work closely with all stakeholders to support our children in achieving their God given potential.

At Pinvin C of E Academy, we believe that every child is a unique creation of God, with a bright future as promised in **Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."**

We strive to create a nurturing and inspiring environment where every child can achieve their full potential. Our vision is to ensure that all our pupils can **'Be happy, grow and flourish.'** in a safe and supportive community. Through innovative teaching and a commitment to Christian values, we prepare our pupils to become confident, compassionate, and resilient individuals, ready to thrive in a changing world.

Equality and Diversity Statement

At Pinvin C of E Academy we promote equality of opportunity. We promote positive attitudes and encourage active participation of all stakeholders regardless of race, gender, disability, age, religion, belief and sexuality. In so doing we strive to eliminate any unlawful discrimination or harassment of any group and where any such harassment is found appropriate action will be taken immediately.

This policy has been reviewed; to the best of our knowledge, we do not feel it impacts negatively on any specific group or individual within our school community.

Religious Education and the school's Christian Vision

Our Christian Core Values of **Forgiveness, Love, Joy, Wisdom, Peace and Hope** are an integral part of our ethos, wanting everyone to '**be happy, grow and flourish**'. These values live at the heart of what we do and is a commitment for all our pupils to have the opportunity to fulfil their ambitions and potential.

Our school vision is integral to everything we do at Pinvin C of E Academy we want to discover and maximise each child's unique potential. We aim to deliver an inspiring curriculum and school experience where every child can grow and flourish. Our RE curriculum specifically contributes to our distinctively Christian character and provides children with the opportunity to explore our Christian values, and be happy, grow and flourish as citizens in a pluralistic and global community.

Religious Education has a unique place as a central subject in the curriculum at Pinvin C of E Academy. It is neither a core nor a foundation subject; the 1988 Education Act states that 'Religious Education has equal standing in relation to core subjects of the National Curriculum in that it is compulsory for all registered school age pupils.' As a church school we see that the Christian Faith, and learning about the faith and beliefs of others, inform all aspects of our life together. We believe this is of the highest importance when teaching RE to enable pupils to explore their differences with mutual respect.

R.E. at Pinvin C of E Academy explores how individuals and communities make meaning and sense of their lives. It helps all children to develop an understanding of the place that religion plays in people's lives and how it has influenced history and the growth and development of society. R.E. enables pupils to know about, understand and respond to the important and ultimate questions of life. It is taught in such a way that it inspires pupils to explore, develop and affirm their own faith, so they can all **be happy, grow and flourish** in a multifaith society through developing respect for the religious or non-religious beliefs of others. Values education permeates the R.E. curriculum at Pinvin C of E Academy.

Worcestershire's Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education

Our syllabus is based on the Worcestershire's Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education. This syllabus supports the structure of the Understanding Christianity scheme of work, which we have adopted. Each unit of work is structured around a key question, the exploration of which encourages pupils to make sense of a key aspect of a world faith or sacred text, understand the impact of this and make connections between this and their own lives and understanding of the world in which they live.

Aims

The aims of R.E. in church schools are:

- To enable pupils to know about and understand Christianity as a living faith that influences the lives of people worldwide and as the religion that has most shaped British culture and heritage.

- To enable pupils to know and understand about other major world religions and world views, their impact on society, culture and the wider world, enabling pupils to express ideas and insights.
- To contribute to the development of pupils' own spiritual/philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own beliefs and values.

(Statement of Entitlement Church of England Education Office June 2016)

The purpose of RE:

The Worcestershire Agreed Syllabus 2020 asserts the importance and value of religious education (RE) for all pupils, with on-going benefits for an open, articulate and understanding society.

- Religious Education provokes challenging questions about meaning and purpose in life, beliefs about God, ultimate reality, issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human. In R.E. pupils learn about religions and beliefs in local, national and global contexts, to discover, explore and consider different answers to these questions.
- Pupils learn to weigh up the value of wisdom from different sources, to develop and express their insights in response and to agree or disagree respectfully.
- Pupils gain and deploy the skills needed to understand, interpret and evaluate texts, sources of wisdom and authority and other evidence. They learn to articulate clearly and coherently their personal beliefs, ideas, values and experiences while respecting the right of others to differ.

(Worcestershire Agreed Syllabus, RE Today 2020)

At Pinvin C of E Academy, Religious Education supports and strengthens the vision, ethos and values which are at the heart of what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. The importance placed on the development of the whole child spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected in the R.E. curriculum. R.E. does not seek to urge religious beliefs on pupils nor compromise the integrity of their own beliefs by promoting one religion over another.

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.'

Legal Requirements

- R.E. is a statutory subject of the curriculum for all pupils in each year group and 'should be provided for all registered pupils except those withdrawn at the request of their parents.' (s 71 SSFA 1998)

- Parents have the right to request that their son or daughter be excused from all or part of the R.E. provided at school.
- The syllabus should 'reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, while taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain.' (s375 (3) Education Act 1996)
- We ensure that we comply with the legal requirements by following the Worcestershire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education and Understanding Christianity.

The Church of England's Statement of Entitlement

The Church of England's *Statement of Entitlement* (February 2019) outlines the aims and expectations for RE in Church of England schools and guides this school's approach to RE. It begins by stating: 'Religious Education in a Church school should enable every child to flourish and to live life in all its fullness (John 10:10). It will help to educate for dignity and respect encouraging all to live well together'. Quoting from the Church of England's Vision for Education: Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good, it continues: 'Such an approach is offered through a commitment to generous hospitality, being true to our underpinning faith, but with a deep respect for the integrity of other religious traditions (and worldviews) and for the religious freedom of each person'.

Responsibilities for RE in School

The Headteacher has ultimate responsibility for ensuring that the legal framework for RE is carried out and that the teaching of RE fits within the school's distinctively Christian vision. At Pinvin Federation some of the responsibilities for RE may be delegated to other members of staff.

The Religious Education Subject Leader is responsible for:

- Ensuring personal subject knowledge and expertise are kept up-to-date by participating in Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for RE and share good practice.
- Attending RE clusters / hub meetings.
- Providing and sourcing in-service training for staff as necessary.
- Ensuring the staff are familiar with the syllabus and supporting resources such as *Understanding Christianity*.
- Supporting and clarifying approach to planning, delivery and assessment being clear about the subject's intent, implementation and impact.
- Monitoring the teaching and learning of RE through regular lesson observations, work scrutiny, learning walks, analysis of data and pupil voice and being able to discuss impact and standards, all in conjunction with the Headteacher / Senior Leadership Team.
- Contributing to the SIAMS self-evaluation process.

Teaching and Learning of RE

R.E. is taught on a weekly basis. It is also sometimes delivered through a class topic or as a whole-school R.E. themed day. Each unit is based on a key question. This allows links to be made with other subject areas where appropriate.

A wide range of imaginative teaching methods and pupil groupings ensure effective RE sessions. We appreciate the positive impact that local faith communities can have on pupils'

experience in RE. Therefore, this school encourages visits to places of worship and welcomes visitors from different faith communities. We recognise the importance that teachers demonstrate respectful attitudes towards all faiths, modelling the attitudes and responses we would expect from our pupils.

As identified in the *Statement of Entitlement*, teaching and learning in RE in this school will provide:

- A challenging and robust curriculum based on an accurate theological framework
- An assessment process which has rigour and demonstrates progression based on knowledge and understanding of core religious concepts.
- A curriculum that draws on the richness and diversity of religious experience worldwide
- A pedagogy that instils respect for different views and interpretations; and, in which real dialogue and theological enquiry takes place
- The opportunity for pupils to deepen their understanding of the religion and world views as lived by believers.
- RE that makes a positive contribution to Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) acquiring and organising appropriate resources, managing a budget when necessary