

St Oswald's C of E Primary School

RE Policy Statement



Policy Approved: May 2026

Next reviewed: **May 2027**

Aims

This policy aims to outline the importance of RE as a curricular subject at St Oswald's. As a Leeds school, we follow the guidance of the Diocese of Leeds and York.

Diocesan Aims

Aims and purposes of Religious Education in the Church school (taken from Excellence in Religious Education, Diocesan Syllabus for RE 2022)

RE will enable 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 living, believing and thinking.

Appropriate to their age at the end of their education in Church schools, the expectation is that all pupils

- are religiously literate and, as a minimum, pupils are able to:
- Give a theologically informed and thoughtful account of Christianity as a living and diverse faith.
- Show an informed and respectful attitude to religions and non-religious worldviews in their search for
- God and meaning.
- Engage in meaningful and informed dialogue with those of other faiths and none.
- Reflect critically and responsibly on their own spiritual, philosophical and ethical convictions

St Oswald's Aims

We consider that the main purpose of RE is to enable children to hold well balanced and well-informed conversations about religion and world view.

RE is an academic subject: This means that RE is taught in a way that is rigorous and intellectually stimulating. It requires pupils to think critically about religious beliefs and practices, and to develop their own understanding of the world.

This policy also provides guidance for staff, parents and governors with regard to the rationale for our RE curriculum, expectation for teaching time, resources and approach.

Guidance and Literature

This policy has been written with the following guidance and policies consulted:

1. [The Church of England Statement for Entitlement](#)
2. The Diocesan Syllabus for RE (VA Schools)
3. The SIAMs inspection framework

Curriculum

Rationale

Our chosen curriculum has been designed to give children a broad and balanced experience of religious education, encouraging both disciplinary knowledge, substantive knowledge and the opportunity to explore spirituality through philosophical questions. RE will facilitate inward, outward, downward and upward spiritual moments (see Spirituality policy) through open ended questioning and debate.

Each unit of the RE curriculum is built around three key concepts:

- Making sense of beliefs (Theology)
- Understanding the impact (human/social science)
- Making Connections (philosophy)

All RE units are from either the Understanding Christianity Syllabus or The Diocesan Syllabus for RE. Natre resources can be used in support of either syllabus.

The following documents have been produced in support of curriculum coverage:

- The RE long term plan (appendix 1)
- End of year expectations

The curriculum has been selected to meet the needs of the children in this demographic and at this school. The teaching of Christianity forms 50% of the curriculum with the other 50% covering the teaching of other faiths and drawing comparisons across multiple faiths. The narrow demographic of the school has led to this decision as children benefit from understanding other world faiths due to lack of daily contact.

Teaching RE

RE should be taught by the class teacher wherever possible.

RE will account for 5-10% of the curriculum time (1 hour in KS1 and 1.5-2 hours in KS2)

RE is taught in line with the guidance produced by the Church of England:

- *RE is for all pupils*
- *Every pupil has an entitlement to Religious Education.*

- *RE is a necessary part of a 'broad and balanced curriculum' and must be provided for all registered pupils in state-funded schools in England, including those in the sixth form, unless withdrawn by their parents (or withdrawing themselves if they are aged 18 or over).*
- *This requirement does not apply for children below compulsory school age (although there are many examples of good practice of RE in nursery classes).*
- *Special schools should ensure that every pupil receives RE 'as far as is practicable'.⁵*
- *The 'basic' school curriculum includes the National Curriculum, RE and Relationships and Sexual Education. In Church schools RE has the status of a core subject.*
- *Religious Education is also compulsory in academies and free schools, using the syllabus as set out in their funding agreements.*

RE is taught using guidance from Understanding Christianity (with accompanying NATRE resources) and the syllabus from the Diocese of Leeds and York.

RE is recorded by the children in their RE books and collectively using the floor book.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring is carried out by the RE subject leader during their subject leadership time. This will include lesson visits, book monitoring and pupil voice.

Monitoring is also carried out by the curriculum leader, EYFS leader and SENDCo as part of their monitoring and quality assurance schedule.

As part of our continued work with the Diocese, the school will engage in shared monitoring with the school's allocated Diocesan advisor.

Responsibilities for RE and governors

St Oswald's governing body has an RE governor in place. This is currently David Pickett (2025-26). The RE governor will visit school at least once per year to meet with the subject leader and with the headteacher to monitor RE as per the monitoring schedule for the RE leader.

The Right of Withdrawal from RE

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from religious education and/or collective worship.

From age 16, pupils can choose for themselves to opt out of collective worship if they wish. However, they cannot opt out of receiving religious education without parental consent until they are 18.

There is no requirement to provide reasons for the request but schools will appreciate the opportunity to discuss the RE curriculum and arrangements for the withdrawal with parents. The school may also wish to review such a request each year, in discussion with the parents.

The right of withdrawal does not extend to other areas of the curriculum when, as may happen on occasion, spontaneous questions on religious matters are raised by pupils or there are issues related to religion that arise in other subjects such as history or citizenship.

Role of the RE Leader

St Oswald's has a dedicated RE leader who is responsible for no additional subject areas.

The RE leader is responsible for the following areas:

- Creation of the RE curriculum in line with Diocesan and National Curriculum Guidelines.
- Monitoring and evaluating the curriculum, planning and assessments.
- Providing training and support for teachers.

The role is carried out in conjunction with and supported by the Headteacher and Assessment Leader.

New RE leaders will attend CPD around the role and responsibilities of the RE leader and Understanding Christianity Training.

The RE leader attends the RE Matters Networking sessions.

Entitlement and Inclusion

In line with the SEND and Teaching and Learning policy, all children who have not elected to withdraw from RE will be taught RE in a way and at a level which meets their needs.

All children are entitled to participate in RE fully, and we tailor lessons to include debate, discussion, drama and story telling to be inclusive of all learner needs.

We ensure that our curriculum covers major world faiths beyond Christianity, and additionally teach children about diversity within faith.

We adhere to the Church of England Statement of Entitlement. This outlines the expectations of the Church of England Education Office in relation to Religious Education. This document is used by SIAMS (Section 48) inspectors when they are assessing the quality of RE in church schools and academies.

Statement of Entitlement

1. CPD

New staff will receive training around Understanding Christianity from their year group partner or the RE lead. When we have a number of new staff, then training around Understanding Christianity is provided by the Diocesan advisor. This occurs every 3-5 years depending on mobility.

2. RE and SIAMS

St Oswald's acknowledges the importance of RE within a Church of England school. We recognise that as a VA school (or previously VA school in a mixed Trust), that the teaching of RE is integral to the values and vision of the school.

The Headteacher oversees the RE leader in ensuring that the provision of RE is of a high quality and standards are being met in a sustainable manner.