



# Religious Education Policy

Our vision is to enable all to flourish.

Status and review cycle:	Statutory, annually
Responsible group:	Coaley C of E Primary School
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Next Review Date:	January 2027

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**Name of School: Coaley C of E Primary Academy School**

### **Legal Position of Religious Education in School**

Religious Education is unique in the curriculum as it is neither a core or foundation subject. In the 1988 Education Act it states, 'Religious Education has equal standing in relation to core subjects of the National Curriculum in that it is compulsory for all pupils'.

Coaley Academy is a Church of England Academy therefore Religious Education is provided in line with the funding agreement and the academy follows the Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2025.

### **The Church of England's Statement of Entitlement**

The Church of England's *Statement of Entitlement* outlines the aims and expectations for Religious Education 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.*

Full details of this document can be found in Appendix One.

### **Religious Education and the School's Christian Vision**

**The School's Vision:**

***As a family, we flourish***

**At the heart of Coaley Primary Academy is our community, our family, where we inspire all who are a part of our school to grow and flourish.**

**In the hearts of our children, we build confidence, respect for all, love and a joy for learning. We are the reservoir of hope for our community, helping our children have the wisdom and resilience to achieve their best.**

**With our hearts, we nurture all and show love to everyone. Through inclusivity and aspiration, we reap the harvest of success so everyone can thrive and achieve.**

The passage from the Bible that best summarises who we are and what we do:

**Love each other as I have loved you**

- John 15: 12

Our vision, 'As a family, we flourish,' underpins our RE curriculum by fostering a sense of belonging, respect, and shared growth within our community. Through this approach, pupils develop empathy, understanding, and confidence in exploring faith, worldviews and values, enabling them to flourish both personally and collectively.

## **Religious Education Intent**

At Coaley C of E Primary Academy, the intent of the Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus for RE 2025 is to provide a rich and inclusive religion and worldview's curriculum that deepens pupils' understanding of Christianity alongside other major faiths and non-religious perspectives. Through an enquiry-based approach, pupils are encouraged to think critically, ask meaningful questions, and reflect on their own beliefs and values. This syllabus aims to nurture respect, empathy, and personal growth, enabling children to engage thoughtfully with diversity and develop a coherent sense of identity and purpose. In doing so, it supports our vision of 'As a family, we flourish,' by fostering a community where every child can grow academically, spiritually, and socially.

## **School Approach to Religious Education**

In line with all church schools, this school has duty to provide accurate knowledge and understanding of religions and world views.

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 it is vitally important 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 SMSC development

## **Organisation & Time Allocation**

In accordance with the structure of Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus/South Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus we have agreed that:

In the Foundation Stage pupils will be introduced to a range of faith traditions and will be taught RE for a minimum of 36 hours over the year.

At Key Stage 1 pupils study Christianity, Judaism and Islam. RE will be taught for at least for 36 hours over the year through discrete weekly lessons.

At Key Stage 2 pupils study Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism and also consider non-religious worldviews. RE will be taught for at least for 45 hours over the year through discrete weekly lessons.

## Assessment/Recording & Reporting

The Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2025 sets out a structure for recognising pupil achievements and each pupil can work progressively towards achieving the expected end of key stage learning outcomes as outlined in the syllabus.

School reports are sent home in the summer term of each year and the RE report is written with reference to assessment records as well as pupils' individual work.

At the end of each teaching unit, pupils complete a reflective assessment activity independently which is centred around the overarching unit question. In KS2, pupils are encouraged to reflect and reference learning from the term (and make connections with wider learning and previously taught units). In KS1, a reflective assessment activity is designed enabling pupils to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding. These assessments are used to inform future retrieval practice in RE lessons.

## Responsibilities for RE in School

The **subject leader** is responsible for overseeing the teaching and learning of religious education in the school. The role includes:

- Ensuring personal subject knowledge and expertise are kept up-to-date by participating in CPD for RE and share good practice
- Providing and sourcing in-service training for staff as necessary
- Ensuring the staff are familiar with the syllabus and supporting resources *such as the new 2025 Agreed Syllabus, Understanding Christianity & Understanding Islam*
- Supporting and clarifying approach to planning, delivery and assessment being clear about the subject's intent, implementation and impact
- Acquiring and organising appropriate resources, managing a budget when necessary
- Monitoring the teaching and learning of RE through regular lesson observations, work scrutiny, learning walks, analysis of data and pupil voice and be able to discuss impact and standards
- Contributing to the SIAMS self-evaluation process particularly around Strand 7

The Head Teacher and Governors make sure:

- RE has a high profile within the curriculum
- All pupils make progress in achieving the learning outcomes of the RE curriculum
- The subject is well led and effectively managed and that standards and achievement in RE and the quality of the provision are subject to regular and effective self-evaluation
- Those teaching RE are suitably qualified and trained in the subject and have effective and regular opportunities for CPD
- Teachers newly appointed to church schools are provided with support offered by the diocese to enable them to become effective teachers of RE
- Clear information is provided for parents on the RE curriculum and the right to withdraw
- RE is resourced, staffed and timetabled so that the school can fulfil its legal obligations on RE and pupils make good progress

## The Right of Withdrawal from Religious Education

At Coaley C of E Primary Academy, we wish to be an inclusive community but recognise that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from religious education on the grounds of conscience. However, the right of withdrawal does not extend to other areas of the curriculum when, as may happen on occasions, spontaneous questions on religious matters are raised by pupils or there are issues related to religion that arise in other subjects such as history and citizenship.

We would ask any parent considering this to contact the head teacher to discuss any concerns and anxieties about the policy, provision and practice of religious education at our school.

### **Managing the Right of Withdrawal**

The school will ensure that parents who want to withdraw their children from RE are aware of the RE syllabus and that it is relevant to all pupils and respects their own personal beliefs.

- Parents should be made aware of its learning objectives and what is covered in the RE curriculum and should be given the opportunity to discuss this, if they wish.
- The school may also wish to review such a request each year, in discussion with the parents.
- The use of the right to withdraw should be at the instigation of parents (or pupils themselves if they are aged 18 or over), and it should be made clear whether it is from the whole of the subject or specific parts of it. No reasons need be given.
- Parents have the right to choose whether or not to withdraw their child from RE without influence from the school, although a school should ensure that parents or carers are informed of this right and are aware of the educational objectives and content of the RE syllabus. In this way, parents can make an informed decision.
- Where parents have requested that their child is withdrawn, their right must be respected, and where RE is integrated in the curriculum, the school will need to discuss the arrangements with the parents or carers to explore how the child's withdrawal can be best accommodated.
- If pupils are withdrawn from RE, schools have a duty to supervise them, though not to provide additional teaching or to incur extra cost. Pupils will usually remain on school premises.
- Where a pupil has been withdrawn, the law provides for alternative arrangements to be made for RE of the kind the parent wants the pupil to receive. This RE could be provided at the school in question, or the pupil could be sent to another school where suitable RE is provided if this is reasonably convenient.
- If neither approach is practicable, outside arrangements can be made to provide the pupil with the kind of RE that the parent wants, and the pupil may be withdrawn from school for a reasonable period of time to allow them to attend this external RE.
- Outside arrangements for RE are allowed as long as the LA SACRE (VC schools) or diocese (VA schools) is satisfied that any interference with the pupil's attendance at school resulting from the withdrawal will affect only the start or end of a school session.

### **Approval/review by governing body**

**Headteacher signed: J.Thomas**

**Date: 19.1. 2026**

**Chair of Governors signed: C.O'Donnell**

**Date: 19.1.26**

**Date of next review: January 2027**

## **APPENDIX ONE – Statement of Entitlement**

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-02/RE%20Statement%20of%20Entitlement%20for%20Church%20Schools.pdf>