



# Madresfield C.E. Primary School

## Religious Education Policy

Policy LAB Approval: March 2026

Date of last review: December 2025

Date of next review: February 2028

Policy Owner: Headteacher and RE Lead Liz Tizard

***Based on the Model Policy for Religious Education in Schools from the Diocese of Worcester***

# Our Vision

## Ignite Illuminate Inspire

At Madresfield 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. Inspired by *Psalm 119:105 "God's word is a lamp to guide our feet and a light for our path"*.

As a school we aim to:

**Ignite:** to cultivate a love for learning and awe and respect for God's world.

**Illuminate:** to trust in God to guide us and develop our wisdom and compassion as we journey through school.

**Inspire:** to help our children to shine as we celebrate their successes and help them to develop into beacons of hope for others within our school and wider communities.

In order for children to achieve their potential we have in place and follow the following school rules:

**Be kind-** being kind to others.

**Be ready-** being ready to learn.

**Be respectful-** being respectful to all.

**Be safe-** being safe around school.

### Equality and Diversity Statement

At Madresfield CE Primary School 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.*

## Introduction

This policy has been written in the light of the [Church of England's Vision for Education](#) (Autumn 2016), [Flourishing for All](#) (September 2024) and through reflection on the 2023 [SIAMS Evaluation Framework](#) for schools.

## Legal Position of Religious Education in School

Religious Education (RE) is unique in the curriculum as it is neither a core nor 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'.

Madresfield CE Primary School is a Church of England Academy, therefore Religious Education is provided in-line with the funding agreement and the academy follows the Worcestershire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2025 – 2030.

## The Church of England's Statement of Entitlement

The Church of England's [Statement of Entitlement](#) (September 2026) 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'.

## Religious Education and the school's Christian Vision

At Madresfield 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. Inspired by Psalm 119:105 "God's word is a lamp to guide our feet and a light for our path".

**Religious Education (RE)** explores big questions about life, to find out what people believe and what difference this makes to how they live, so that pupils can make sense of religion, reflecting on their own ideas and ways of living.

## Religious Education Intent

- Demonstrate religious literacy and knowledge of the Bible as the 'big story'.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other principal religious beliefs and traditions represented in Great Britain.
- Gain an understanding of the ways in which beliefs influence individuals, societies, communities and cultures in a global community. Helping pupils recognise people behave in certain ways because of the beliefs they hold.
- Acquire a capacity to engage in a search for meaning and purpose to enhance their own spiritual and moral growth.
- Discover opportunities for personal reflection and spiritual development, allowing pupils to explore their own feelings, experiences and emotions as they explore some of the puzzling, 'BIG' questions of life.
- Develop respect and a positive attitude towards people who hold beliefs different

- practices and ways of living from theirs.
- Encourage, support and promote good relationships within and between families, communities and religions.
  - Reflect upon their pursuit of a set of moral values which will be a guide to their behaviour.
  - Consider how their own experiences can contribute to reflection on the fundamental questions of human existence.
  - Acquire investigative and research skills for them to make reasoned judgements about religious issues.
  - Promote a willingness to challenge religious, racial and cultural stereotyping and prejudice.
  - Encourage, support and promote good relationships within and between families, communities and different religions.

### **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:

- Engage meaningfully and critically with learning which helps them to make sense of the multi-religious and multi-secular world in which they live.
- Know about and understand Christianity as a diverse global living faith through the exploration of beliefs and practices, using approaches which engage with biblical text and key sources of authority.
- Gain knowledge and understanding of a range of religious and non-religious worldviews, appreciating the complexity, diversity, continuity and change that exists within those worldviews being studied.
- Grapple with questions of meaning and purpose raised by human existence and experience.
- Understand the concept of religion and recognise its continuing influence on Britain's cultural heritage and in the lives of individuals, communities and societies in different times, cultures and places.
- Develop disciplinary knowledge which equips pupils to be religiously literate.
- Explore their personal worldviews; their own religious or non-religious, spiritual and philosophical ways of living, believing and thinking.

RE that makes a positive contribution to Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development.

## Organisation & Time Allocation

In accordance with the Statement of Entitlement and the structure of Worcestershire Agreed Syllabus we have agreed that, as a minimum:

- in the Foundation Stage pupils will encounter Christianity and other faiths, as part of their growing sense of self, their own community and their place within it. They will be introduced to a range of faith traditions and will be taught RE for 36 hours over the year
- at Key Stage 1 pupils study Christianity and Judaism or Islam - RE will be taught for at least for 36 hours over the year
- at Key Stage 2 pupils study Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Islam and also consider non-religious worldviews - RE will be taught for at least for 45 hours over the year.

## Assessment / Recording & Reporting

The Worcestershire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2025-2030 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.

As a school we track progress in RE through **landing pages which are used across KS1 and KS2**. Children answer a question at the start of each lesson based on their previous learning. Within KS2, at the end of each 'big question' children are encouraged to make judgements about their own learning in RE in addition to teachers' assessment of work. Within EYFS, learning is recorded through a floor book in a variety of ways, such as individual comments, pictures and class discussions. Pupils work, throughout the year, will be used as a means of making judgements about their progress and achievement informing comments in the annual report provided for Parents/Carers at the end of the academic year.

We see the relationship with parents as being an integral and vital part of their child's education.

School will:

- Provide regular parents' evenings which give verbal and written information on their child's progress and future targets.
- Provide half-termly curriculum letters to inform the parents on specific areas of the curriculum being covered.
- Provide an end of year report which outlines progress, attainment and targets for the future.
- Foster a positive dialogue around the rights of parents to withdraw their child/children from all or part of RE lessons.

## 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 Madresfield CE Primary School some of the responsibilities for RE may be delegated to other members of staff.

The **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
- 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 being able to discuss impact and standards, all in conjunction with the Headteacher
- contributing to the SIAMS self-evaluation process.

The **Headteacher and Governors** must ensure:

- RE's has a high profile within the curriculum
- that the legal framework for RE is upheld within the school
- that the Statement of Entitlement for RE is adhered to within school
- that 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
- all teaching staff and those responsible for governance understand the distinctive role and purpose of RE within a Church school
- 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
- that 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
- appropriate support is in place to ensure the effective provision of RE
- monitor RE effectively in accordance with the Statement of Entitlement.

### **The Right of Withdrawal from Religious Education**

At Madresfield CE Primary School we believe that Religious Education helps all children, irrespective of their own religious beliefs, understand the world around them and the communities in our world. We wish to be an inclusive community but recognise that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from RE 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.

Any request from a parent for the withdrawal from RE will be granted, and parents are under no obligation to provide a reason for their decision.

We would welcome the opportunity to talk with you about Religious Education in the school; however, parents are under no obligation to take up this offer and it is not conditional on a request for withdrawal being granted.

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.