

ST PAUL'S C of E (VA) PRIMARY SCHOOL

St Paul's C of E Primary School

Life in all its fullness

Religious Education Policy

Created: February 2026

Reviewed:

'Life in all its fullness' John 10:10

- *We nurture a passion for wisdom so everyone can realise their full potential*
 - *We respect and love everyone as individuals*
 - *We celebrate and serve our diverse community*

The three core Christian values of wisdom, love and welcoming community, form the basis of work in our school community

1. Vision and Rationale

At St Paul's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School, Religious Education (RE) is a central and valued part of our curriculum. Rooted in our Christian foundation and guided by our school values of Love, Wisdom, and Welcoming Community, RE enables pupils to develop a deep understanding of Christianity and an informed, respectful awareness of other world faiths and worldviews.

Through high-quality teaching, pupils are encouraged to ask big questions about life, belief, meaning, and values, supporting their spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development. RE nurtures pupils to grow in love for others through compassion and respect, in wisdom through thoughtful enquiry and reflection, and in a sense of belonging within a welcoming and inclusive community.

2. Legal Status

Religious Education is a statutory subject for all pupils registered at the school. As a Church of England Voluntary Aided school, RE is taught in accordance with the school's Trust Deed, diocesan guidance, and is aligned with the Cambridgeshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education (2023). The school aims for RE to be academically rigorous, theologically informed, and educational in character.

3. Aims of Religious Education

RE at St Paul's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School aims to:

- Enable pupils to know about and understand Christianity and other world faiths and worldviews.
- Encourage pupils to explore big questions about life, meaning, and belief.
- Develop pupils' religious literacy and ability to think critically and reflectively.
- Promote respect, empathy, and understanding within a diverse society.
- Support pupils' spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development.

4. Curriculum Approach

4.1 Christianity

Christianity is taught using Understanding Christianity, enabling pupils to:

- Develop a coherent understanding of core Christian concepts.
- Make connections between biblical texts, Christian belief, and lived Christian experience.
- Explore how Christians respond to their beliefs in their own lives and in the world today.

4.2 Other World Faiths and Worldviews

Other world faiths and worldviews are taught using the Emmanuel Project, which provides:

- Accurate and respectful representations of religions and worldviews.
- Opportunities for enquiry, reflection, and dialogue.
- Clear progression across the primary phase in line with the Cambridgeshire Agreed Syllabus (2023).

5. The Three Lenses

Teaching and learning in RE is structured through the Three Lenses:

- Theology – beliefs, teachings, and sources.
- Philosophy – questions about meaning, truth, and morality.
- Human and Social Sciences – lived experience of religion in communities.

This ensures a balanced, rigorous, and coherent approach.

6. Spiral Curriculum

RE is organised as a spiral curriculum, where key concepts and questions are revisited and deepened over time, allowing pupils to build on prior learning and develop increasingly sophisticated understanding.

7. Time Allocation

A minimum of 10% of curriculum time is allocated to Religious Education in line with Church of England expectations and the Cambridgeshire Agreed Syllabus (2023).

8. Inclusion and SEND

RE is inclusive and accessible to all pupils. Teaching is adapted through differentiation, scaffolding, multi-sensory resources, and vocabulary support. Pupils with SEND are supported to engage meaningfully and experience success.

9. Assessment

Assessment in RE is ongoing and purposeful, informing planning and identifying next steps. Assessment is aligned with the Cambridgeshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education (2023) using:

Progression Targets

- PT1: Knowing about and understanding religion and worldviews. Knowledge of beliefs, teachings, practices, and ways of life.
- PT2: Expressing and communicating ideas and insights. Ability to express views, ask questions, make connections, and reflect.

Formative Assessment

- Questioning and dialogue
- Pupil reflection
- Observations
- Feedback
- Low-stakes quizzes

SOLO Taxonomy

- Pupils progress from: Pre-structural → Uni-structural → Multi-structural → Relational → Extended Abstract.
- SOLO language supports pupils in recognising and describing deeper understanding.

10. Links with Collective Worship

RE and Collective Worship are distinct but complementary. Together they support pupils' spiritual growth and understanding of Christian faith and values.

11. Leadership and Management

The RE Subject Leader monitors provision, supports staff, and ensures statutory requirements are met. A named governor supports and monitors RE.

12. Staff Development

Staff access diocesan and local training and ongoing professional development in RE.

13. Parental and Community Links

The school values partnerships with parents, the local church, and the wider community to enrich RE learning.

14. Right of Withdrawal

Parents/carers may withdraw their child from RE by making a written request to the Headteacher. The school will discuss the request with parents before any final decision.

15. Monitoring and Review

This policy is reviewed every three years by the RE Subject Leader, Senior Leadership Team, and Governing Body.