



**Kirkby la Thorpe
Church of England Primary Academy
and Pre - School**

Building a Hopeful Future through Kindness, Learning and Trust

Policy Title	RE policy
Governance Function Area	Academic Performance
Date reviewed/amended	June 26
Date for next review and frequency	June 27 Annually

Vision and values

Building a Hopeful Future through Kindness, Learning and Trust

At Kirkby la Thorpe, we strive to ensure that each person is empowered to flourish and contribute positively to society. We seek to equip our pupils with the knowledge, skills and qualities necessary to navigate the complexities of our world, rooting this in Christian love.

We are inspired by the life of St Thomas in all that we do so that we can:

Be Positive and Active Citizens: We strive for our pupils to communicate clearly, embracing tolerance and respect for the diverse beliefs and aspirations of others.

Be Curious and Independent Members of Society: We encourage curiosity and a thirst for knowledge, instilling a longing for justice and an empathy for those in need.

Have Confidence and Perseverance: Through trusting each other, we empower everyone to embrace challenges with confidence and perseverance, striving to achieve their full potential in all aspects of life so that they can be the best that they can be.

Have the Courage to Respectfully Challenge: We foster an environment where respectful dialogue and critical thinking are encouraged, empowering pupils to voice their opinions with courage and integrity so they can **build** a better future.

Know their heritage: We cultivate an appreciation for both local and national heritage, helping pupils understand their roots and identity within the broader context of history so that they have a sense of where they are from.

Values

We are on this journey together and our Christian values of **Kindness, Learning and Trust** support us as we travel.

St Thomas was one of Jesus' disciples. He encouraged others to follow Jesus on his journey (John 11.16), showing **confidence** and **trust**. He also has the **courage** to challenge his friends when they tell him that Jesus has resurrected from the dead; he does not take their words on face value, but asks questions with **curiosity** (John 20.24-29). Thomas was an important member of the early church, taking Jesus' good news for a **hopeful future** to people around the world. According to traditional accounts he travelled to India, **building** Christian communities across the region. This is a journey that would have required great **perseverance**. This matters to us because we consider the ancient global **heritage** of the Christian faith to be an important part of our own identity as a church school. St Thomas inspires us to **learn** from past and current events to build a more hopeful future.

Vision and Vales Alignment

This policy aligns seamlessly with our school's vision, "*Building a Hopeful Future through Kindness, Learning, and Trust*," by fostering a learning environment rooted in respect, curiosity, and inclusivity. The RE curriculum reflects the value of kindness through its emphasis on mutual respect and tolerance for different faiths and worldviews, promoting a welcoming atmosphere for all. By encouraging students to engage with and critically reflect on diverse religious and non-religious perspectives, it nurtures independent learning and curiosity. Furthermore, the policy's commitment to challenging prejudice and preparing pupils for life in modern Britain supports the development of trust and active citizenship, enabling students to confidently navigate and contribute to a diverse society

Kirkby La Thorpe Church of England Academy

This policy has been adopted by the Governors in consultation with the RE subject leader and teaching staff. It was approved in January 26 and will be reviewed in January 27

This policy should be read in conjunction with other policies in school including: SMSC, Collective Worship, PSHE, Teaching and Learning, Assessment, Marking and Feedback and other curriculum policies

The Context

In our school we seek to empower all to fulfil their potential and flourish as agents of positive change in the world. Our curriculum provides pupils with the knowledge, understanding and skills they need to fulfil their potential. Through addressing key questions, engaging in critical thinking and seeking wisdom, our curriculum supports pupils to flourish as agents of positive change. The RE curriculum at Kirkby La Thorpe realises this vision by focusing on substantive, disciplinary and personal knowledge that unlocks pupils' worldview literacy and empowers them to engage with the lived reality of religious and non-religious worldviews with wisdom, self-awareness and critical analysis.

Kirkby La Thorpe Church of England Academy is a small rural school for children in the age range 3 to 11. We have adopted the Lincoln Diocesan Board of Education Primary RE curriculum.

As a Church of England academy, we recognise the core place that RE occupies as part of a broad and balanced curriculum. We also understand the contribution of effective RE to our journey towards realising our school's distinctively Christian vision.

We recognise the variety of religious and non-religious backgrounds that make up our school community and we respect this variety of backgrounds in the spirit of Christian welcome. We are glad to have good relationships with faith and belief practitioners from a range of religious and non-religious worldviews, and we value their contribution to our provision of effective RE.

We actively seek to prepare our pupils for life in modern Britain. As such, we promote key British values, including respect for and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We challenge racism and all forms of prejudice and we see RE as one curriculum area in which our pupils can encounter and critically reflect on a range of worldviews.

The Purpose of RE at Kirkby La Thorpe Church of England Academy

We teach RE as a core part of our school curriculum to help our pupils develop their religion and worldview literacy. We understand this to be our pupils' ability to hold informed, balanced and critically-engaged conversations about religions and beliefs, including their own.

The Aims of RE at Kirkby La Thorpe Church of England Academy

RE at Kirkby La Thorpe Church of England Academy will be provided within legal requirements. These are as follows:

1. The Basic Curriculum must include provision for RE for all pupils registered on the school roll, including those in Reception class who are less than five years old.
2. The content of RE must reflect the fact that the religious traditions of Great Britain are, in the main, Christian; it must also reflect the teaching and practices of the other principal religious traditions represented in Great Britain

We deliver RE in accordance with the Church of England Education Office's Statement of Entitlement <https://www.nse.org.uk/curriculum-and-inclusion/religious-education>

We also pay due attention to the [Ofsted RE Research Review](#) (2021), the [National Content Standard for Religious Education](#) (2023) and the [Ofsted RE subject report](#) (2024).

Within this context, our aims in RE are for pupils to:

- Acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and a range of other religious and non-religious worldviews;
- Develop an understanding of the ways in which religious and non-religious beliefs, teachings, practices, values and traditions influence individuals, communities, societies and cultures, from the local to the global contexts;
- Develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues, with reference to the beliefs, teachings, practices, sources of authority and ways of living associated with the principal religions represented in the UK;
- Develop positive attitudes of mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs;
- Enhance their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development by:

- Considering the ‘big questions’ raised by human experience and reflecting on how religious and other traditions respond to them;
- Responding to such questions with reference to religious and non-religious beliefs, teachings, practices, values and traditions, relating them to their own understanding and experience;
- Reflecting on their own beliefs, values and experiences in light of their study of religious and non-religious worldviews.

Time Allocation

It is the expectation of the Church of England Education Office that RE should constitute a minimum of 5% curriculum time. This is in line with the recommendations made by the Dearing Report (1994). We meet this expectation by providing the minimum time of 36 hours per year for KS1 and 45 hours per year for KS2. This time is arranged as discrete hour-long lessons per week and RE days.

RE forms part of the planning at EYFS; although there is no expected time allocation at this level, we expect that there will be connections made between RE and the Early Years areas of learning.

RE curriculum time does not include values lessons, collective worship or assembly.

RE Curriculum Design

Our RE curriculum is based on the LDBE (Lincoln Diocesan Board of Education) Primary RE Curriculum [**and can be provided on request**]. At both key stages, the principal religious worldviews studied will be Christianity, Hinduism, Judaism, Sikhism and Islam. It is expected that pupils will have opportunities that allow them to encounter a range of religious worldviews. It is expected that pupils will also engage with non-religious worldviews, such as Humanism, as part of the RE curriculum.

We carry out curriculum planning for RE in three phases (long-term, medium-term and short-term). The long-term plan maps the sequence of learning in RE; the medium-term plan gives details of each unit of study delivered to each Key Stage, identifying clearly the different types of knowledge and vocabulary developed through the sequence of learning. As we have mixed-age classes, we carry out the medium-term planning on a two-year cycle. The class teacher writes the plans for each lesson. These are discussed on an informal basis with the RE Subject Leader and form part of the annual monitoring process for RE teaching and learning.

Curriculum Implementation

We ensure that teaching and learning in RE meets the needs of all pupils; the implementation of the curriculum focuses on ensuring all pupils develop the expected substantive, disciplinary and personal knowledge in RE. The impact of this is monitored through regular formative and summative assessment processes. We identify RE as one of the core subjects through which our pupils can develop spiritually, morally, socially and culturally, but we do not limit the delivery of SMSC to this subject alone. We provide an annual report on each child’s progress in RE. This report will be based on regular monitoring of work in

RE using a variety of methods, including verbal feedback, evidence folders and written comments on individual pieces of work.

Resources

Kirkby La Thorpe C of E Academy has invested in a wide range of appropriate books, artefacts, audio and visual resources, posters, persona dolls, etc., and the RE Subject Leader audits these resources annually. We take advice from the Diocesan RE Adviser and other RE professionals on the best resources to support the delivery of an effective RE curriculum.

Visits and Visitors

We consider that an essential element of the delivery of effective RE is encounter with a range of religious and non-religious worldviews. We encourage our pupils to participate in visits to places of worship when the opportunity arises; these visits are arranged in line with the programme of study for RE and provide pupils with the chance to encounter world religions as living faiths in modern Britain. We also encourage members of different religious and non-religious worldviews to visit Kirkby La Thorpe C of E Academy. These visits are arranged in accordance with the school's trips policy.

Supporting All Learners

Whole school policy with regards to SEND and adaptive teaching applies to RE. Teachers ensure that the learning activities employed in RE are adapted to meet a variety of learning needs. RE forms part of our commitment to provide a broad and balanced education to all children. Through our RE teaching, we provide learning opportunities that enable all pupils to make good progress. We strive to meet the needs of all pupils and we take all reasonable steps to achieve this. For further details, see separate school policies.

Inspection

The effectiveness of the RE curriculum is inspected as part of the Section 48 SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspection. Kirkby La Thorpe Church of England Academy is formerly a VC school. As such, progress and attainment in RE is not inspected as a distinct element of the Section 48 SIAMS inspection. It is the responsibility of the RE Subject Leader to review and maintain evidence for the RE elements of this inspection, with appropriate support from the head teacher, governors and Diocesan RE Adviser.

Monitoring and Review

We intend that this policy should operate for the next 1 year, and then be fully reviewed by staff and governors. The RE Subject Leader will monitor the delivery of RE during each academic year to ensure that this policy is being appropriately implemented. Their role is to support and hold accountable all members of staff involved in the delivery of RE. To this end, they will ask each member of staff involved in the delivery of RE to provide a copy of their medium-term planning for RE, along with a folder of evidence of pupil progress in RE during each academic year.

The RE Subject Leader must evaluate their own leadership of the subject during each academic year. Using a self-evaluation tool, such as the school evaluation form for the RE Quality Mark, the RE Subject Leader must work with their line manager to ensure that leadership of RE remains a high priority and is of a high quality.

Withdrawal from RE

We acknowledge the right of parents/guardians to withdraw their children from RE lessons and of teachers to withdraw from teaching the subject. We acknowledge that parents/guardians/teachers do not need to provide a reason why they wish to withdraw from the subject. Should a parent/guardian wish to withdraw their child from RE lessons or a teacher wish to refuse to teach RE, we ask that they inform the school [e.g. via the enquiries@ email address].

We will endeavour to communicate clearly the place of RE within a broad and balanced curriculum to ensure that parents are in possession of all the necessary information. However, should a parent/guardian request that their child be withdrawn from RE, we will not attempt to persuade them to alter their decision. If a pupil is withdrawn from RE lessons, the school is required to provide supervision, *but should not incur any additional cost in so doing.*

Any queries regarding withdrawal from RE should be directed to the RE Subject Leader in the first instance, and thereafter to the head teacher.

This policy will be reviewed annually / biannually. The next date of review will be: