



**Walsgrave**  
Church of England Academy

# Religious Education Policy

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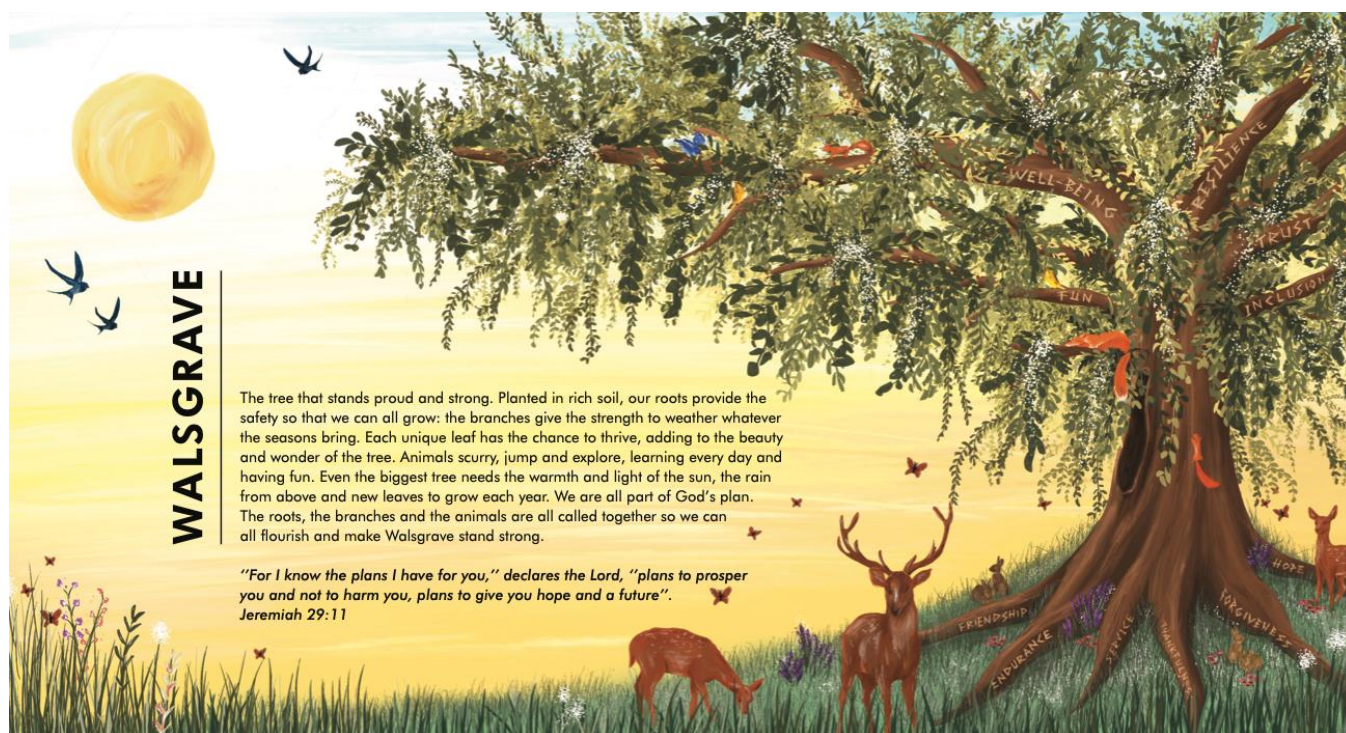
**Policy Date:** November 2023

**Review Date:** November 2025

## Document History

Version	Status		Date	Author	Summary Changes
V1			Nov 21	Rob Darling	Review & update of whole policy
V2			Nov 23	Damien Sowerby	Reviewed and no changes required

## Our Vision



## 'Together We Thrive'

*"For I know the plans I have for you", declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future". Jeremiah 29:11*

At Walsgrave CofE Academy we fully embrace the vision of educating the whole person, as outlined in the Church of England's Vision for Education; 'Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good' (2016). We aim for our children and members of the wider school community to flourish in all they do and 'live life in all its fullness' (John 10:10).

We are a Church school, which believes in the importance of friendship, where people from all races, religions and cultures live in peace. Our pupils, staff and families work together as a team, supporting each other in our daily lives. We have hope in our challenges and in our successes. We

recognise the ultimate worth of each person, created in the image of God and believe in the plans and purposes He has for each of us.

Walsgrave, the tree that stands proud and strong. Planted in rich soil, our roots provide the safety so that we can all grow:

The branches give the strength to weather whatever the seasons bring. Each unique leaf has the chance to thrive, adding to the beauty and wonder of the tree. Animals scurry, jump and explore learning everyday and having fun. Even the biggest tree needs the warmth and light of the sun, the rain from above and new leaves to grow each year. We are all part of God's plan. The roots, the branches and the animals are all called together so we can all flourish and make Walsgrave stand strong.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future". Jeremiah 29:11

### Aims

Religious Education (RE) is central to the purpose of Walsgrave C of E Academy because, as a church school, we see that the Christian faith informs all aspects of our life. At this school, RE supports and strengthens the vision, ethos and values which are at the heart of what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. The importance placed on the development of the whole child - spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually - is reflected in the RE curriculum.

'The principle aim of RE is to engage pupils in systematic enquiry into significant human questions which religion and worldviews address, so that they can develop the understanding and skills needed to appreciate and appraise varied responses to these questions, as well as develop responses of their own'.

Coventry and Warwickshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2017-2022, p6

RE aims to enable pupils of all abilities and stages of development to:

- Develop knowledge and understanding of Christian beliefs and practices so that they understand the importance of the Bible, the role of the church and recognise that for Christians their faith provides a way of interpreting life and its meaning
- Develop knowledge and understanding of the beliefs and practices of some of the other principal religions in Britain
- Understand how belief may impact on culture, relationships, values and lifestyle.
- Understand how belief can be expressed in a variety of ways including art, dance, music, ritual celebration and in different cultural settings
- Develop pupils spiritually, morally, culturally and socially by helping them to reflect upon personal feelings, responses and relationships
- Explore ways in which religious values and teaching have an impact on actions and decisions for people of faith
- Be supported in their own search for meaning and purpose in life
- Develop a sense of awe, wonder and mystery
- Explore concepts of love, forgiveness and sacrifice
- Develop skills of reflection, empathy, communication, analysis, investigation, interpretation, evaluation and synthesis

- Develop attitudes of respect, sensitivity, open-mindedness and self-esteem

### Teaching and learning

RE plays an important part in a broad and balanced curriculum. RE at Walsgrave explores how individuals and communities make meaning and sense of their lives through the major religions of the world. It enables pupils to know about, understand and respond to the important and ultimate questions of life. RE is taught in such a way that it inspires pupils to explore, develop and affirm their own faith and values and have respect for the faith, beliefs and values of others. It is not the practice of this school to preach to or seek to convert children.

Following Diocesan guidelines, the proportion of the curriculum time to be allocated to RE should be approximately 5%.

We aim for all children to experience high quality Religious Education by planning in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus and guidance from the Diocese of Coventry alongside 'Understanding Christianity'.

- The schemes of work will ensure that there is continuity and progression for pupils and opportunities for assessment in both attainment targets
- A range of teaching and learning activities will ensure that pupils learn effectively and with interest
- RE will be taught either as a discrete subject or as part of a cross curricular approach where appropriate

In accordance with the structure of the locally agreed syllabus, children will study the following:

- Within EYFS, children study Christianity and a range of stories belonging to different religious traditions
- At Key Stage 1 children study Christianity alongside other world religions
- At Key Stage 2 children study Christianity alongside other world religions and worldviews

#### Key Stage 1

Children will explore the following religions and worldviews:

- Christianity
- Islam
- Judaism
- Hinduism
- Buddhism
- Sikhism

#### Key Stage 2

Children will explore the following religions and worldviews:

- Christianity
- Islam
- Judaism
- Hinduism

- Buddhism
- Sikhism
- Worldview such as Humanism

### Recording

Work in Religious Education can be recorded in a number of ways, which capture the learning and progress made within units of work. This work provides evidence of progress made by the children and identifies points for support and extension. Within Religious Education, children should be provided with a range of learning opportunities that may include:

- Visiting local places of worship and receiving visitors from faith communities
- Using art, music, dance, drama and multimedia techniques
- Children experiencing times of quiet reflection to develop their own thoughts and ideas
- Using story, pictures, art, photographs and a range of sources/texts to interpret meaning and explore ideas in order to deepen understanding
- Using artefacts to help children develop their understanding of religious beliefs and forms of expression
- Discussing religious and philosophical questions giving reasons for their own beliefs and those of others
- Developing the use of ICT in helping children's awareness of religions and beliefs
- Developing their skills of communication, including debate, in order to be able to respond in an informed and respectful way

### Assessment and Expectation in RE

Religious Education will be assessed in line with the assessment and marking policies. Assessment will be used for two purposes:

- To promote pupils progress in RE overtime
- To ensure that pupils are meeting the expected standard as set out in the Locally Agreed Syllabus, Understanding Christianity and, where applicable, the expectations of the SIAMS framework.

By the end of each Key Stage children will be expected to achieve the expected standard as set in the locally agreed syllabus and in 'Understanding Christianity'

- There will be clear learning outcomes for all units of work, based on the appropriate expectations/levels as set out in the RE syllabus.
- Pupil progress and attainment in RE will be tracked and recorded at the end of each unit within the pupils books.

We also recognise that some of the most important learning in RE (e.g. how RE contributes to spiritual development) cannot be formally assessed in the same way. What we do assess, is children's progress against the level descriptors in the local agreed syllabus.

### Subject Leadership

- The RE subject leaders will support and monitor the subject
- The RE subject leader will ensure that her subject knowledge and expertise are kept up to date by means of regular training

- The RE subject leader will ensure that staff receive adequate training in the teaching and assessment of RE
- The RE subject leader will regularly monitor the quality of RE teaching across the school
- The RE subject leader will liaise with the governor who holds responsibility for RE and they will report regularly to the governing body on progress and attainment in RE
- The RE subject leader and head teacher will ensure that the principles set out in the National Society's Statement of Entitlement for RE are implemented
- The RE Lead is responsible for the monitoring of the quality of teaching and learning within Religious Education

### Equal Opportunities

We are committed to ensuring equal opportunities for all children. We will continue to monitor the impact of this policy to ensure that it meets the needs of all children.

### The legal position of Religious Education

Our school curriculum for Religious Education meets the requirements of the 1998 School Standards and Framework Act (SSFA). This stipulates that Religious Education is compulsory for all children registered at the school.

### Right to withdrawal

At Walsgrave C of E Academy, we wish to be an inclusive community but recognise that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from religious education or collective worship on the grounds of conscience, without giving a reason. Parents wishing to exercise this right are asked to write to the headteacher who will then invite the parents into school to discuss their concerns, clarify the nature of the RE and worship provided by the school and set out the options open to the parents as set out in education law. However, 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. Where a pupil is withdrawn from RE and do not take part in alternative religious education they will be supervised by an appropriate member of staff whilst doing work set by their parents which will seek to further their knowledge and understanding of their parents beliefs and values.

### Conclusion

It is our aim to support the Church of England Vision for Education so that we educate for knowledge and wisdom, hope and aspiration, community and living well together and dignity and respect. Religious Education makes an important contribution to these aims and to the spiritual development of children. We aim to provide the knowledge, skills and opportunities for all children to explore

their own beliefs and values and the beliefs and values of others. We aim that this will enable children to develop a sense of respect for the religious and cultural differences of others so that they may be able to contribute positively within a pluralistic society and hold respectful, informed discussions with people whose views may be different from their own.

### Responsibility

The Inspire Education Trust Board of Directors have a responsibility for the oversight of this and all policies within the Trust's academies and may delegate the implementation and review of this policy in accordance with our Scheme of Delegation.

Reviewed by:

Rob Darling

November 2021  
November 2023

Next Review Date:

November 2025

Approved by Directors:

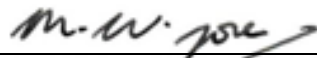
22 November 2023

Signed:



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Lois Whitehouse  
CEO



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Mark Gore  
Chair of Standards