Religious Education Policy

St Michael's Easthampstead CE Primary School

At St Michael's we are a community of active learners who go above and beyond in everything we do, equipping ourselves to make a difference in our own lives and in the lives of others

Policy Name	Religious Education
Brief Description:	This policy outlines the school's statutory responsibility and local approach to the teaching or RE.
Status: Statutory/non-statutory	Statutory Policy
Other related policies and procedures:	Equality Statement SEND policy
Approval level: HT/Governors/FGB	FGB
Approved by the Governing Board on:	19/10/2026
Frequency to be reviewed	Annually
Latest Date for Next Review:	October 2027
Version + Schedule of Amendments:	V4 - 2026 Statement of Entitlement; 2026 Locally Agreed Syllabus
Signed:	Shaun Riordan
Position:	Headteacher
Date of Signature:	19/10/2026

Introduction

St Michael's is a Church of England Aided school with close links to the Parish of Easthampstead and the Diocese of Oxford. Religious Education has a very important role at St Michael's. It plays an important part in expressing the theologically rooted Christian vision of the school. RE reflects the ethos and values that are held and promotes understanding of people of all faiths and worldviews. RE has the same high status as any other subject and contributes to the overall development of our pupils from all backgrounds and traditions.

Our vision

A community of active learners who go above and beyond in everything they do, equipped to make a difference in their own lives and the lives of others.

At St Michael's Easthampstead Primary School we ensure that our values of Love: Honesty, Respect, Kindness and Aspiration are reflected throughout our curriculum. Children are taught to consider and respect religious and non-religious worldviews and reflect honestly and openly on their own views and beliefs.

The Legal Position

Every maintained school in England must provide a basic curriculum (RE, sex and relationship education and the National Curriculum). This includes provision for RE for all registered pupils at the school except for those withdrawn by their parents (see paragraph below). The school, in accordance with its Trust Deed, provides religious education for all pupils registered at the school. Following advice from the Oxford Diocesan Board of Education (ODBE), religious education at St Michael's Easthampstead is based upon the Oxford Diocesan Scheme of Work, including aspects of the resource Understanding Christianity, whilst also reflecting the requirements of the Statement of Entitlement for Religious Education published by the Education Office of the Church of England (2026) and takes account of the Bracknell Forest Locally Agreed Syllabus (2026). The statutory section 48 (SIAMS) inspection will evaluate RE and the way that the curriculum enables all pupils to flourish as well as how it expresses the Christian vision of the school. It will look for evidence of effective teaching and learning, leading to progress. Religious education has the same status and importance as any other subject and, as such, the same high standards are applied to this as to other subjects.

Purpose and Aims of RE

The purpose of RE is to teach children about the religious and non-religious worldviews that they will encounter in modern Britain and enable them to engage in meaningful and considered dialogue with those of all faiths and none. This is religious literacy.

Therefore, the aims of RE in our school are:

- To know about and understand Christianity as a diverse global living faith through the exploration of core beliefs using an approach that critically engages with biblical text.
- To gain knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews appreciating diversity, continuity and change within the religions and worldviews being studied.
- To engage with challenging questions of meaning and purpose raised by human existence and experience.
- To recognise the concept of religion and its continuing influence on Britain's cultural heritage and in the lives of individuals and societies in different times, cultures and places.
- To explore their own religious, spiritual and philosophical ways living, believing and thinking.

Curriculum and Time Allocation

Christianity is taught in every year group, with key concepts revisited through a carefully sequenced and progressive curriculum utilising the ODBE Scheme of Work (2023) and takes account of the Bracknell Forest Locally Agreed Syllabus (2026). **At least 50% of RE curriculum time is devoted to Christianity**, in accordance with the Church of England Statement of Entitlement (2026).

Pupils also develop knowledge and understanding of a range of religious and non-religious worldviews, including Judaism, Hindu Dharma, Islam, Sikhi and Humanism, as appropriate to the school's curriculum progression. The curriculum is designed to enable pupils to appreciate diversity within and between religions and worldviews.

The total time for RE is between 5% and 10%, and it is taught in dedicated lessons/blocks/cross-curricular settings as appropriate. **The time dedicated to RE is separate from the time given to Collective Worship.** In KS1 this will amount to approximately 36 hours per year; in KS2 this rises to 45 hours per year.

Teaching, Learning and Assessment

RE is taught using an enquiry-based approach that is challenging and robust. Learning will be organised to encourage the development of attitudes such as self-awareness, respect for all, open-mindedness, appreciation and wonder, as well as providing opportunities to engage appropriately with Fundamental British Values. All faiths and worldviews are treated respectfully, and opportunities will be made to engage in age-appropriate, meaningful discussion. Where possible pupils will encounter believers and visit places of worship.

The curriculum is organised into 3 strands of Beliefs & Questions, Community & Identity and Reality & Truth, within which Big Questions are used to promote research, discussion and reflective thinking. Teaching incorporates the disciplinary approaches of theology (believing), human and social sciences (living) and philosophy (thinking), helping pupils develop the knowledge and skills needed to explore religious and non-religious worldviews critically and thoughtfully.

A variety of resources, styles, and techniques will be used as appropriate to enable all children to make progress in RE regardless of their starting points, ability or background. This will be in line with our SEN and Equal Opportunities policies as well as taking guidance from Flourishing for All and Mental Health and Wellbeing documents from the Church of England.

Assessment will be completed against the relevant objectives from the curriculum. Marking and feedback will be in line with the procedures and policy of the school. Students will engage in a variety of activities which will also enable teachers to assess what they have learnt and retained. Records kept will include information about pupils' experiences and judgements about their attainment and progress, as well as being used to inform planning.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The RE subject leader and SLT will monitor teaching and learning in RE in accordance with school policy. The RE subject leader will observe teaching, conduct book and planning reviews and pupil interviews when appropriate to assess the quality of teaching and learning. The headteacher and governors will ensure that adequate monitoring takes place and that the impact of such activity is assessed.

The governing board, supported by the link governor for RE and Christian distinctiveness, will receive regular updates on the quality, implementation and impact of RE, ensuring that the curriculum meets

the expectations of the Church of England Statement of Entitlement and contributes effectively to the school's theologically rooted Christian vision.

Resources

The RE subject leader will ensure that RE resources are kept up-to-date and that staff are informed when new resources are purchased or made available electronically. Resources will include source materials (eg Bibles, visitors, artefacts) where appropriate and be treated with respect by all staff.

The Right of Withdrawal

Parents have the legal right to withdraw their child from all or part of Religious Education under Section 71 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. Parents are not required to provide a reason for their decision.

Parents wishing to exercise this right are encouraged to discuss their request with the Headteacher, so that the nature and purpose of RE at St Michael's can be explained. Written confirmation is encouraged for record-keeping purposes but is not a condition of withdrawal.

Where a pupil is withdrawn, the school will ensure appropriate supervision, although it is not required to provide alternative RE teaching or incur additional expenditure.

As a Voluntary Aided school, the governing board will also consider requests for RE in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus where the statutory conditions for such provision apply.