Policy for Religious Education (RE)

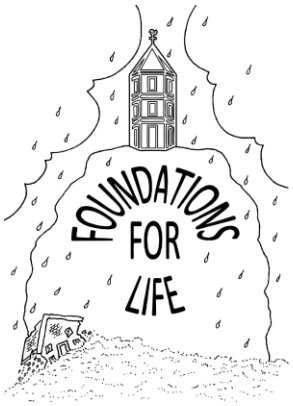
School name: Alderbury & West Grimstead CE Primary School

School designation: Previously VA

Diocese: Salisbury **Locally agreed syllabus:** Wiltshire

1. Christian Vision and Rationale

At Alderbury & West Grimstead CE Primary School, our theologically rooted Christian vision shapes all we do.



Foundations for:

- Learning
- Individuals
- Friendship
- Environment

Religious Education (RE) is central to this vision. It enables pupils to flourish by engaging deeply with questions of meaning, identity and belief and by developing understanding, respect and wisdom for living well in a diverse society.

This policy reflects the **Religious Education: Statement of Entitlement for Church of England Schools (National Society for Education, January 2026)** and current SIAMS expectations.

Religious Education at Alderbury & West Grimstead CE Primary School is a **high-profile academic subject** that enables every child to flourish. It contributes to pupils' spiritual development and wider formation by:

- Developing **religious literacy**
- Encouraging **generous hospitality and respect**
- Enabling pupils to navigate a **multi-religious and multi-secular world**

RE provides a safe, rigorous and reflective space in which pupils can explore both **institutional worldviews** (religions and belief systems) and their own **personal worldviews**.

2. Legal Requirements and Context

As an academy, we are independent of the local authority and not required to follow the national curriculum or the local RE syllabus. However, our curriculum must reflect 'that religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, whilst taking account of the teachings and practices of the other principle religious traditions present in Great Britain.'[Education Reform Act 1988].

The school teaches religious education according to the Wiltshire agreed syllabus.

Section 48 of the 2005 Education Act requires the inspection of religious education in schools which have a religious character. This is the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS).

3. Aims of Religious Education

RE should enable pupils to:

- 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.

4. Curriculum Implementation and Entitlement

Within our curriculum, Christianity is studied as the principal religious worldview (at least 50%). RE is allocated a minimum of 5% of curriculum time, excluding Collective Worship.

All pupils in every key stage receive RE unless withdrawn by parents (see Section 6). The curriculum is inclusive and enables all pupils to access learning.

RE is taught by professionally developed staff through a carefully sequenced curriculum that builds accurate subject knowledge, revisits prior learning and explores a range of religious and non-religious worldviews. Lessons provide opportunities to engage with

different ways of knowing, alongside time and a safe environment for pupils to reflect, express their ideas and develop their personal knowledge and spirituality.

Teaching challenges stereotypes, misinformation and misconceptions about race, gender and religion, presenting beliefs, traditions and lifestyles with accuracy and sensitivity. Diversity is valued, and pupils' questions and opinions are treated with respect. Pupils are encouraged to gain personal insight, for example by applying ideas from religious stories to their own lives.

RE is delivered in an objective, critical and pluralistic manner, promoting understanding of religion and culture within communities and wider society.

5. Monitoring, Assessment, Recording and Reporting

RE is monitored by senior leaders, RE leader and Pickwick Church School Flourishing Executive Leader visits. This is completed through Learning walks, work scrutiny, pupil voice and staff feedback as well as regular reviews of the curriculum and planning.

Key evaluation questions include:

- How effectively does RE develop religious literacy?
- How well is the curriculum sequenced and balanced?
- How does RE reflect the school's Christian vision?

Effective RE will ensure that pupils:

- Achieve well as learners in a rigorous academic subject
- Demonstrate **religious literacy and critical thinking**
- Show respect, understanding and openness to diversity
- Articulate their own developing **worldviews**
- Engage thoughtfully with complex questions of life and meaning
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Assessment in RE:

- Reflects **different forms of knowledge** including substantive, disciplinary and personal knowledge
- Tracks progression in **religious literacy** across a range of evidence that demonstrates growth in the three forms of knowledge. This is measured against end of unit/ year expectations that outlines the knowledge, understanding and skills a pupil is expected to achieve.
- Includes teacher assessment, pupil self-reflection and dialogue
- Supports planning, intervention and curriculum development

Progress is reported clearly to parents.

Approach to Spirituality:

At Alderbury & West Grimstead CE Primary School, we recognise spirituality as an important aspect of every child's personal development. Through our *Windows, Mirrors, Doors* approach, we encourage pupils to explore the world around them, reflect on their own experiences and beliefs and consider how they can respond positively to others and the wider community. We intentionally create opportunities for moments of reflection, awe and wonder across school life, enabling children to ask meaningful questions, develop a sense of curiosity and appreciation and deepen their understanding of themselves and the world in which they live. Through these experiences, pupils are supported to develop empathy, resilience, gratitude and a strong sense of belonging.

6. Right of Withdrawal

At Alderbury & West Grimstead CE Primary School, RE is taught as an engaging, inclusive and enquiry-led subject, open to all and at the centre of the curriculum, and we would hope that all parents would understand the value of this for all children. However, parents do have a right by law to withdraw their children from Religious Education lessons. In this event, we will undertake responsibility for their supervision regarding health and safety. The school follows the guidance from Salisbury Diocese, and we would always encourage parents to discuss any concerns they may have about the RE curriculum with the headteacher before making a final decision. Requests for full or partial withdrawal need to be made to the headteacher in writing.

7. Review:

This policy is reviewed every year by the RE lead and adopted by the LBC . This enables the policy to continue to reflect the ongoing developments in the subject.

Date adopted: 15th October 2026

Date of next review: 15th October 2029