



SHERSTON C OF E



PRIMARY SCHOOL



Religious Education Policy

| Date Approved | Review Date | Signed |
|---------------|-------------|---|
| Feb 2026 | Feb 2027 |  |

| Year | Amendments (in Yellow) |
|------|--|
| 2023 | Opening statement link to vision and values |
| 2025 | No changes |
| 2026 | Changes linked to the introduction and roll out of the New Wiltshire Agreed Syllabus |



Guided by the profound vision learning, caring & Achieving Together, Sherston C of E Primary is committed to fostering an inclusive and nurturing environment that reflects the principles found in Mark 2:1-12. Embracing the story of Jesus healing the paralytic, where a community came together in faith and compassion to support one another, we aim to instil these values within our Religious Education Policy. We endeavour to create a culture where our children, staff, and community members learn, care, and achieve in unison, supporting one another through their educational and spiritual journeys.

Legal Framework

Religious Education is unique in the school curriculum in that it is neither a core subject nor a foundation subject, but the 1988 Education Act states that 'Religious education has equal standing in relation to core subjects of the National Curriculum in that it is compulsory for all registered pupils.'

Following the launch of the New Wiltshire Agreed Syllabus in November 2025, the school implements the Understanding Christianity Scheme of Work for the study of Christianity and is currently trialling a range of other schemes of work in order to support the planning and teaching of other world views, both religious and non-religious. These schemes include (but are not limited to) Jigsaw RE, Oak National Academy and Twinkl plan it.

Intent

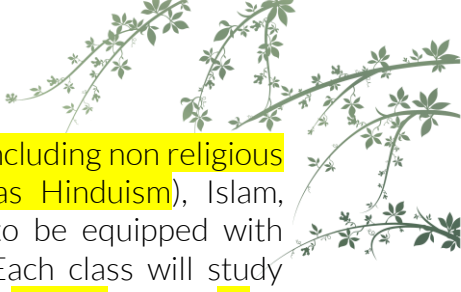
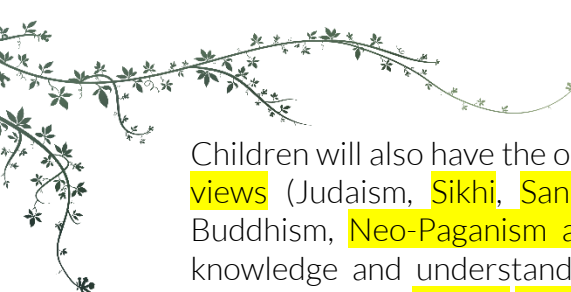
The aim of our Religious Education Curriculum is to help children to acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and the other principal religions and non-religious views represented in Great Britain; to appreciate the way that religious beliefs shape life and our behaviour, develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues and enhance their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Through the schemes of work that we follow (Understanding Christianity and the current trial schemes) and within the guidelines of the New Wiltshire agreed syllabus we aim for children to:

- Know about and understand Christianity and other world views as living world faiths and beliefs by exploring core theological concepts
- Develop knowledge and skills in making sense of a range of theological evidence and understanding the impact this has on the lives of followers of different faiths
- Connect, critically reflect upon, evaluate and apply their learning to their own growing understanding of religion and belief, the world and human experience.
- Enquire through key questions, to promote their own personal and spiritual development.

Implementation

In line with the Church of England Statement of Entitlement 2019 and the guidance from SACRE, each year group studies Christianity for 50% of their RE curriculum time. The use of Understanding Christianity ensures progression across the year groups. Each cohort will follow key strands throughout their time at Sherston C of E Primary School allowing the children the opportunity to revisit, build on and embed key skills including analysing theological evidence and thinking critically.



Children will also have the opportunity to study other world beliefs including non religious views (Judaism, Sikhi, Sanatana Dharma (formerly referred to as Hinduism), Islam, Buddhism, Neo-Paganism and Humanism). This allows children to be equipped with knowledge and understanding of the wider world around them. Each class will study Christianity and at least one other world view each academic year. The chosen scheme(s) of work will be used to support planning and teaching of world views, in line with the New Wiltshire Agreed Syllabus. Through whole school theme weeks, we try to give the children an immersive experience of a range of world views in addition to the core curriculum of RE.

Teachers ensure that a range of teaching methods are used to immerse children in religious education. RE will be taught objectively. Video clips, practical activities and stories are all used regularly in class. The WSLR resource boxes are also used to supplement teaching. RE is taught regularly, usually once a week, however teachers may choose to block time in order to create immersive experiences for their class.

Impact

The children enjoy learning about other beliefs and views and why people choose, or choose not to follow a religion. Through their R.E. learning, the children are able to make links between their own lives and those of others in their community and in the wider world. Through R.E. our children are developing an understanding of other people's cultures and ways of life, which they are then able to communicate to the wider community.

Children share their views on RE through pupil voice questionnaires and readily express interest in learning about other religions and cultures.

Roles and Responsibilities

- Within Religious Education, the subject leader will be responsible for:
- Ensuring the implementation of the New Wiltshire Agreed Syllabus
- Ensuring all teaching staff have access to the Understanding Christianity Scheme of Work and the current trial units for schemes of work.
- With the support of SLT, providing a long-term plan for the teaching of RE to ensure curriculum coverage.
- With the support of SLT, monitoring standards in RE through work scrutinies, lesson observations and the collating of internal assessment data.

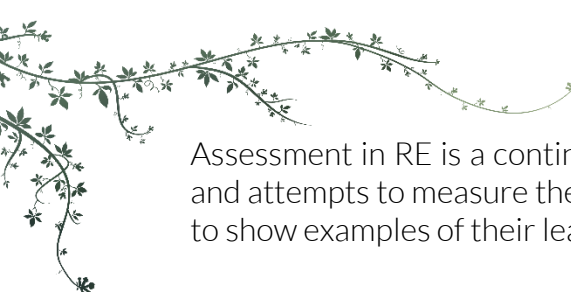
The class teacher will be responsible for:

- Planning and delivering effective lessons using a range of teaching methods to ensure the content of the New Wiltshire Agreed Syllabus is covered
- Monitoring the progress of pupils within their class and reporting on this annually to parents

EYFS

All pupils in the EYFS will be taught RE as part of their personal, social and emotional learning. Pupils will encounter religions and world views through multiple methods of teaching (e.g. story telling, role play, art work). Teachers will encourage imaginative play and curiosity in pupils. Pupils will be given opportunity to reflect on their feelings and experiences.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting



Assessment in RE is a continuous process of identifying pupils' strengths and weaknesses and attempts to measure their understanding and skills. Children have individual RE books to show examples of their learning. This may be recorded in a variety of ways.

Teachers will use their professional judgement against the objectives set out in each unit of the **New** Wiltshire Agreed Syllabus and **the corresponding scheme of work** in order to assess pupil progress. The teachers will use the evidence from the books and class discussions to create a 'best fit' judgement.

Progress across the school is monitored by the RE subject leader. The assessment process helps teachers report to parents/carers in the end of year report.

Equal Opportunities

All children will be given equal access to RE, irrespective of race, gender, creed, level of ability or nationality. Mutual respect and tolerance for all cultures will be promoted. RE will be taught in an objective manner. Parents, if they so wish may withdraw their children from Religious Education. (This also applies to the act of daily, collective worship). This conscience clause also exists for teachers.

Right to Withdraw



Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the Religious Education. Those parents/carers wishing to exercise this right are invited in to see the head teacher and/or RE Leader who will explore any concerns and discuss any impact that withdrawal may have on the child. The school will ensure that parents who want to withdraw their children from RE are aware of the RE syllabus and that it is relevant to all children, and respects their own personal beliefs. Parents will be made aware of the learning objectives and what is covered in the RE curriculum and should be given the opportunity to discuss this, if they wish. The school may also wish to review such a request each year, in discussion with the parents. **The New Wiltshire Agreed Syllabus states:**

The right of withdrawal from RE was legalised a long time ago when RE was confessional in nature. It allowed parents/carers to withdraw their children from receiving Bible based teaching from a member of clergy. The nature of RE and the subject content taught in schools is now very different. It is educational, balanced and broad and supports the building of pupils' cultural capital and understanding of the world in which we live.

This agreed syllabus has been created by teachers, councillors and representatives from all major religious and non-religious worldviews and it is hoped that parents/carers would not want to withdraw a young person from RE. However, legally, a parent/carer of a pupil may request:

- *that their child be wholly or partly excused from receiving RE given in accordance with the Agreed Syllabus.*
- *that a pupil who is wholly or partly excused from receiving RE provided by the school may receive RE of the kind desired by the parent/carer.*
- *on the school premises, provided that it does not entail any expenditure by the responsible authority.*

The use of the right to withdraw should be at the instigation of parents and it should be made clear whether it is from the whole of the subject or specific parts of it. No reasons



need be given. Where parents have requested that their child is withdrawn, their right must be respected, and where RE is integrated in the curriculum, the school will need to discuss the arrangements with the parents or carers to explore how the child's withdrawal can be best accommodated. The purpose of the option to withdraw is to allow parents/ carers to make their own arrangements for their own preferred RE not so children can take part in other studies/ activities. Once a child has been withdrawn they cannot take part in the RE programme until the request for withdrawal has been removed. Parents who decide to withdraw their children from RE lessons are requested to put this in writing to the Headteacher for our school records. Parents will be invited to review their request annually.

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.