

# Religious Education Policy



Version: 6

Date: Jan 2026

# 1. Summary

This document explains the school's policy on and organisation of Religious Education.

## 2. Document control

### 2.1 Owner

The owner of this document is the Head Teacher. All requests for change should be directed to them.

Any printed copies of this document are for reference only; the definitive version is the computer file held on the school office administrator's computer.

### 2.2 Revision history

Date	Version	Changes	Author(s)
01Dec08	1.0		
Oct 2012	2	Changes to current practice	Sophie Bell
Dec 2020	3	Incorporates changes to new syllabus	Sophie Bell
October 24	5		Mark Knight
January 25	6	New legislation for withdrawal added and general improvement to clarity.	Mark Knight

### 2.3 Approval

Date	Version	Approver(s)	Minute number
01Dec08	1.0	Governors	9.1
25/11/12	2	Strategic & Standards Committee	4.5
23/11/16	3	Strategic & Standards Committee	7.2

### 2.4 Review period

The maximum period between reviews of this document is: 2 years

Version	Next revision due
6	2027

## **1. Mission Statement**

### **1.1 Christian Ethos**

At Longstone Church of England (VA) Primary School, Christianity is at the heart of everything we do. We endeavour to provide the highest-quality primary education within a caring and supportive Christian ethos.

This policy supports the school's aims and reflects the core Christian values that shape our life together:

<b>School Values</b>	<b>Core Christian Principles</b>
Respect and kindness	Compassion
Happiness and belonging	Fellowship
High expectations for everyone	Hope & Endurance
Achieving our potential	Understanding that we are unique in the eyes of God
A passion for learning	Joy & Wisdom
Working together in a happy, safe environment	Friendship, Trust & Love

These values underpin not only the RE curriculum but every action undertaken by pupils, staff and the wider school community.

### **1.2 Religious Education Curriculum Intent**

At Longstone CE (VA) Primary School, we believe it is important for all pupils to learn about religion so that they may understand the diverse world around them. As a Church of England school, our aim is to:

- Develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of Christianity and the other principal religions represented in Great Britain.
- Enable pupils to appreciate how religious beliefs shape life, values and behaviour.
- Support pupils to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues.
- Strengthen pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development.

Our RE teaching reflects our Christian values and follows the "Big Questions" approach from the Derbyshire Agreed Syllabus for RE. We encourage curiosity, critical thinking and personal reflection. British Values are embedded throughout the curriculum, ensuring pupils understand their rights and responsibilities as UK citizens.

## **2. The Legal Position of Religious Education**

### **2.1 Statutory Requirements**

Our school curriculum for Religious Education meets the requirements of the **Education Reform Act (1988)**, which states that RE is compulsory for all registered pupils, including those in the EYFS.

### **2.2 Parental Right to Withdraw – Updated Legal Guidance**

Following a recent **Supreme Court ruling**, the **National Society for Education (NSE)** has issued updated national guidance. Schools must now apply the following principles:

- **Schools must not place any burden on parents requesting withdrawal.**

- **No explanation, justification, or meeting should be required.**
- **Withdrawal requests should be granted immediately.**
- **All previous guidance on withdrawal is now considered rescinded.**

Schools are advised to **review their policies, wording on websites, and general practice** to ensure full compliance with this updated legal position and to reduce any risk of legal challenge.

Longstone CE (VA) Primary School will implement this updated guidance in full.

### **2.3 RE and the Curriculum**

Religious Education forms a central part of our SMSC and citizenship education. It reflects the predominantly Christian traditions of Great Britain while recognising and valuing the teachings and practices of other major world religions.

## **3. Teaching and Learning**

### 3.1

Our approach is based on helping pupils both **learn about religion** and **learn from religion**. RE is taught creatively and interactively through planned RE-themed weeks aligned with the Derbyshire Syllabus (2020–25).

### 3.2

Teaching enables pupils to understand a diversity of faiths. Learning is enriched through festivals, visits to places of worship and contributions from representatives of faith communities.

### 3.3

We encourage pupils to develop their own values and beliefs while respecting those of others.

### 3.4

Pupils undertake research, enquiry and comparative study between religions. They work individually, in pairs and in groups, and may present their learning to peers or the wider school.

### 3.5

We provide differentiated learning through:

- Open-ended tasks
- Tasks of increasing difficulty
- Ability-grouped work
- Differentiated resources
- Targeted adult support
- Opportunities for pupils to design their own appropriate tasks

## **4. Curriculum Planning**

### 4.1

Planning ensures progression of knowledge, understanding and challenge across year groups.

### 4.2

The long-term curriculum map outlines the RE questions and themes taught across the school within RE weeks.

### 4.3

Class teachers plan individual lessons and learning objectives, working collaboratively with the RE Subject Leader.

## **5. Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)**

### **5.1**

RE is taught to all EYFS pupils.

### **5.2**

Teaching links to Development Matters and Early Learning Goals, particularly:

- Self-Regulation
- Managing Self
- Building Relationships
- People, Cultures and Communities

## **6. Contribution of RE to Other Curriculum Areas**

### **6.1 English**

RE supports reading, writing and speaking and listening through discussion, presentations and the study of religious texts.

### **6.2 Computing**

Pupils use technology for research, presentation and analysis. Digital media support the exploration of religious themes.

### **6.3 PSHE and Citizenship**

RE promotes moral development, personal responsibility, healthy choices and respect for others.

### **6.4 Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development**

RE provides opportunities for reflection, moral reasoning, cultural understanding and exploration of life's big questions.

## **7. SEND Provision**

RE is taught to all pupils, including those with special educational needs. Teaching is adapted to meet individual targets and learning needs.

## **8. Assessment and Recording**

### **8.1**

Assessment is based on the Derbyshire "Assessment Triangles" and evidence from lessons and work samples.

### **8.2**

Assessment is stored electronically, enabling tracking of individuals, groups and cohorts.

## **9. Resources**

RE resources, including artefacts and class reflection materials, are stored centrally. Bibles are available for adults and children to borrow.

## **10. Monitoring and Review**

### **10.1**

The RE Subject Leader monitors teaching and learning through:

- Learning walks
- Lesson observations
- Planning analysis
- Work scrutiny
- Pupil voice

A named Link Governor oversees RE alongside the Subject Leader.

This policy is reviewed every **4 years** by the Strategic, Standards & Curriculum Committee.

**Signed:** M. Knight (Headteacher)

**Signed:** Sophie Stephenson (Chair of Governing Body)