

Diocesan Education Team

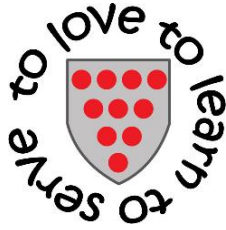


**DIOCESE OF
WORCESTER**

Guidance from the Diocesan Board of Education

Religious Education Policy **Sedgeberrow Church of England First School**

January 2026



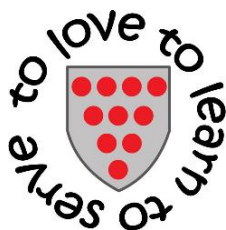
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THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

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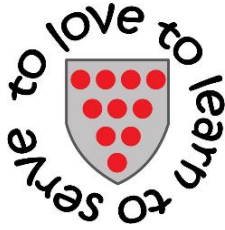
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Introduction

This policy has been written in the light of the [Church of England's Vision for Education](#) (Autumn 2016), [Flourishing for All](#) (September 2024) and through reflection on the 2023 [SIAMS Evaluation Framework](#) for schools.

Name of School: Sedgeberrow Church of England First School

Legal Position of Religious Education in School

Religious Education (RE) is unique in the curriculum as it is neither a core nor foundation subject. The 1988 Education Act states 'Religious Education has equal standing in relation to core subjects of the National Curriculum in that it is compulsory for all pupils.

Sedgeberrow Church of England First School is a Church of England Voluntary Controlled School and therefore follows the Worcestershire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2025 – 2030 / Dudley Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2023 - 2028.

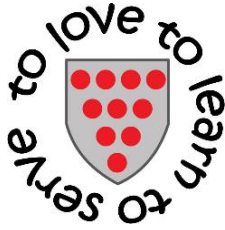
The Church of England's Statement of Entitlement

The Church of England's [Statement of Entitlement](#) (September 2026) outlines the aims and expectations for RE in Church of England schools and guides this school's approach to RE. It begins by stating: 'Religious Education in a Church school should enable every child to flourish and to live life in all its fullness (John 10:10). It will help to educate for dignity and respect encouraging all to live well together'. Quoting from the Church of England's *Vision for Education: Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good*, it continues: 'Such an approach is offered through a commitment to generous hospitality, being true to our underpinning faith, but with a deep respect for the integrity of other religious traditions (and worldviews) and for the religious freedom of each person'.

Religious Education and the school's Christian Vision

The School's Vision Our Vision 2026
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Our vision is to ensure that every one of God's children achieves happiness, fulfilment, emotional and physical wellbeing and has the opportunity to develop an understanding of their own spirituality. Through this vision - all will flourish with kindness and achieve their best. All children and adults will grow a lifelong love of learning, a love for others, a love for our world as well as a love for themselves.
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In body, spirit and mind, together we shine brighter.

Building on these themes, RE in this school contributes to the outworking of our vision by

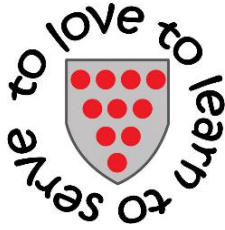
Building on these themes, **Religious Education (RE) and learning about worldviews** contributes to the outworking of our vision by:

- **Helping children develop their spirituality** through opportunities to explore life's big questions, reflect on their beliefs and values, and understand what gives meaning and purpose to people's lives.
- **Encouraging kindness, respect and compassion** by learning about different faiths, beliefs and cultures, fostering understanding and positive relationships, knowledge and understanding and tolerance and respect within our diverse world.
- **Supporting emotional wellbeing and self-awareness** by providing children with safe spaces to reflect on their feelings, identity, experiences and place within God's world.
- **Inspiring a love for others and our communities** through learning about how different faiths and worldviews encourage people to serve, care for and support one another.
- **Developing curiosity and a lifelong love of learning** by encouraging children to ask thoughtful questions, explore different perspectives and deepen their understanding of the world and people around them.
- **Promoting responsibility for God's creation** by exploring how faiths and worldviews inspire people to care for the environment, make ethical choices and contribute positively to the wider world.

These aims help children to grow **in body, spirit and mind**, enabling them to **shine brighter together** and flourish as respectful, informed and compassionate members of society.

Religious Education Intent

The intent of Religious Education at Sedgeberrow Church of England First School is to Intent at Sedgeberrow Church of England First School we consciously strive to achieve a positive, caring ethos throughout the school. Religious Education and Worldviews are taught within this context and plays an important part in upholding the Christian character of the school, alongside our daily acts of collective worship, PSHE and cross-curricular studies. As a Church of England school, the teaching of Religious Education at Sedgeberrow First School is central to our curriculum. The 1988 Education Act states that 'Religious



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Education has equal standing in relation to core subjects of the National Curriculum in that it is compulsory for all registered pupils'.

Through our Religious Education curriculum,

we aim:

- to engage pupils in enquiring into and exploring questions arising from the study of religion and worldviews, so as to promote their personal, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- to provide our pupils with the knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other principal religious faiths, traditions and beliefs represented in Great Britain and the wider world.
- to develop our pupils' understanding of the ways in which beliefs influence people's behaviour, practices and worldview.
- to enable our pupils to develop a positive attitude towards people who hold religious beliefs different from their own.
- to enable our pupils to apply the insights of the principal worldviews to their own search for identity and significance.
- to enable our pupils to become aware of their own beliefs and values and to have a positive attitude to the search for meaning and purpose in life.

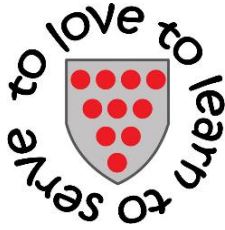
School Approach to Religious Education

In-line with all church schools, this school has duty to provide accurate knowledge and understanding of religions and world views.

A wide range of imaginative teaching methods and pupil groupings ensure effective RE sessions. We appreciate the positive impact that local faith communities can have on pupils' experience in RE. Therefore, this school encourages visits to places of worship and welcomes visitors from different faith communities. We recognise it is vitally important that teachers demonstrate respectful attitudes towards all faiths, modelling the attitudes and responses we would expect from our pupils.

As identified in the *Statement of Entitlement*, teaching and learning in RE in this school will provide:

- Engage meaningfully and critically with learning which helps them to make sense of the multi-religious and multi-secular world in which they live.



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- 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.

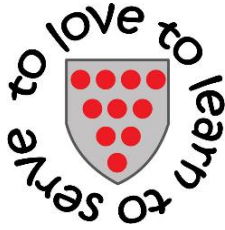
RE that makes a positive contribution to Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development.

Organisation & Time Allocation

The Statement of Entitlement for Religious Education specifies that Christianity is to be the main religious worldview studied in and through RE in each year group/phase equating to at least 50% of curriculum time. It also states that, in a Church school there should be sufficient dedicated curriculum time, meeting explicitly RE objectives, committed to the delivery of RE. This should aim to be close to 10% but must be no less than 5% in key stages (KS) 1-4.

In accordance with the Statement of Entitlement and the structure of Worcestershire Agreed Syllabus / Dudley Agreed Syllabus we have agreed that, as a minimum:

- in the Foundation Stage pupils will encounter Christianity and other faiths, as part of their growing sense of self, their own community and their place within it. They will be introduced to a range of faith traditions and will be taught RE for 36 hours over the year
- at Key Stage 1 pupils study Christianity and Judaism or Islam - RE will be taught for at least for 36 hours over the year
- at Key Stage 2 pupils study Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Islam and also consider non-religious worldviews - RE will be taught for at least for 45 hours over the year.
- at Key Stage 3 pupils study Christianity, Islam, Sikhism, Buddhism and also consider non-religious worldviews - RE will be taught for at least for 45 hours over the year.



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- at Key Stage 4 pupils study two religious views and also consider non-religious worldviews
- RE will be taught for at least for 5% of the curriculum.

Assessment / Recording & Reporting

The Worcestershire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2025-2030 / Dudley Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2023 - 2028 sets out a structure for recognising pupil achievements and each pupil can work progressively towards achieving the expected end of Key Stage learning outcomes as outlined in the syllabus.

As a school we track progress in RE through a clear and simple form of assessment and monitoring.

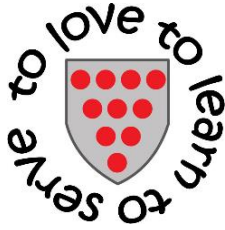
School reports are sent home in the Summer Term of each year and the RE report is written with reference to assessment records as well as pupils' individual work.

Responsibilities for RE in School

The Headteacher has ultimate responsibility for ensuring that the legal framework for RE is carried out and that the teaching of RE fits within the school's distinctively Christian vision. At Sedgeberrow Church of England First School some of the responsibilities for RE may be delegated to other members of staff.

The **Subject Leader (Who is the headteacher)** is responsible for:

- ensuring personal subject knowledge and expertise are kept up to date by participating in Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for RE and share good practice
- attending RE clusters / hub meetings
- providing and sourcing in-service training for staff as necessary
- all teaching staff and those responsible for governance understand the distinctive role and purpose of RE within a Church school
- ensure that Christianity is the main religion taught in and through RE in each year group/phase equating to at least 50% of curriculum time
- ensuring the staff are familiar with the syllabus and supporting resources such as *Understanding Christianity*
- ensure that the teaching of RE enquires in to religious and non-religious worldviews through theology, philosophy and the human and social sciences
- supporting and clarifying approach to planning, delivery and assessment being clear about the subject's intent, implementation and impact

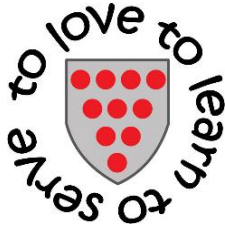


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- engage with their diocese when developing the school's RE curriculum and adapting schemes and frameworks, such as a locally agreed syllabus, to the school's context
- acquiring and organising appropriate resources, managing a budget when necessary
- monitoring the teaching and learning of RE through regular lesson observations, work scrutiny, learning walks, analysis of data and pupil voice and being able to discuss impact and standards, all in conjunction with the Headteacher / Senior Leadership Team
- contributing to the SIAMS self-evaluation process, including, but not limited to Inspection Question 6.

The **Headteacher and Governors** must ensure:

- RE's high priority within the curriculum and status as an academic subject are clearly articulated.
- that the legal framework for RE is upheld within the school
- that the Statement of Entitlement for RE is adhered to within school
- that all pupils make progress in achieving the learning outcomes of the RE curriculum
- the subject is well led and effectively managed and that standards and achievement in RE and the quality of the provision are subject to regular and effective self-evaluation
- all teaching staff and those responsible for governance understand the distinctive role and purpose of RE within a Church school
- those teaching RE are suitably qualified and trained in the subject and have effective and regular opportunities for CPD
- teachers newly-appointed to church schools are provided with support offered by the diocese to enable them to become effective teachers of RE
- that clear information is provided for parents on the RE curriculum and the right to withdraw
- RE is resourced, staffed and timetabled so that the school can fulfil its legal obligations on RE and pupils make good progress
- engage with the diocese when developing the school's RE curriculum and adapting schemes and frameworks, such as a locally agreed syllabus, to the school's context
- *all pupils follow a course which leads to a recognised and appropriate qualification in RE or Religious Studies at KS4. This includes pupils who have SEND. The study of Christianity will be a significant part of any Religious Studies qualification offered.*
- *every opportunity is given for students to exceed exam board requirements, recognising that an exam board specification is not a curriculum.*
- *students who achieve suitable grades at GCSE RS have the option to follow appropriate A-level courses.*



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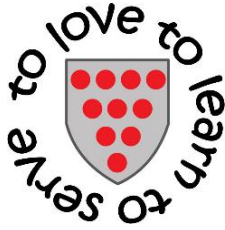
- *a high-quality and clearly identifiable curriculum for RE is in place for all students at KS5 in addition to A-level provision. This should continue to develop students' understanding of Christianity and other religious and non-religious worldviews.*
- appropriate support is in place to ensure the effective provision of RE
- monitor RE effectively in accordance with the Statement of Entitlement.

The Right of Withdrawal from Religious Education

In the UK, parents still have the right to withdraw their children from RE on the grounds that they wish to provide their own RE. This provision will be the parents' responsibility. This right of withdrawal exists for all pupils in all types of school, including schools with and without a religious designation. Students aged 18 or over have the right to withdraw themselves from RE. Parents also have the right to withdraw their child from part of RE and can do so without giving any explanation. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from the teaching of RE. However, this does not apply to teachers who have been specifically employed to teach or lead RE. If a teacher wishes to withdraw from the teaching of RE, a letter requesting this must be submitted to the head of the school and its chair of governors. If a teacher withdraws from the teaching of RE, the school must still make provisions for the pupils to receive their entitlement to RE.

At Sedgeberrow Church of England First School we believe that Religious Education helps all children, irrespective of their own religious beliefs, understand the world around them and the communities in our world. We wish to be an inclusive community but recognise that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from RE on the grounds of conscience. However, the right of withdrawal does not extend to other areas of the curriculum when, as may happen on occasions, spontaneous questions on religious matters are raised by pupils or there are issues related to religion that arise in other subjects such as history and citizenship.

Any request from a parent for the withdrawal from RE must be made to the Headteacher. All requests will be granted, and parents are under no obligation to provide a reason for their decision. Once a request has been received and granted by the headteacher, parents may be offered an opportunity to discuss the nature of RE within school, to support the school's understanding of the parents' decision. We would welcome the opportunity to talk with you about Religious Education in the school; however, parents are under no obligation to take up this offer and it is not conditional on a request for withdrawal being granted. Should parents take up the offer of a discussion, the school may seek to establish the religious issues about which the parent objects to their child being taught.



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If pupils are withdrawn from RE, schools have a duty to supervise them, though not to provide additional teaching or to incur extra cost. Pupils will usually remain on school premises.

Review

This policy will be subject to the normal cycle of policy review and will be reviewed and ratified by the governing body every year. Furthermore, there may be occasions where this policy is reviewed outside the normal review cycle, including but not limited to:

- Change in Agreed Syllabus
- Change in Church of England Statement of Entitlement
- Change in legal position framework for RE

Approval / review by Governing Body:

Headteacher signed:

Date: September 2026

Chair of Governors signed:

Date: September 2026

Date of next review:

Date: September 2027