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St Mary’s C of E Primary School Religion and Worldviews Policy

# Introduction

In St Mary’s C of E Primary School, Religion and Worldviews plays an important role in expressing the Christian vision of the school. Religion and Worldviews reflects the ethos and values that are held and promotes understanding of people of all faiths and none. Religion and Worldviews has the same high status as any other subject and contributes to the overall development of our pupils from all backgrounds and traditions. It is one of golden threads and a keystone cog of our curriculum. We believe Religion and Worldviews contributes towards our vision, learning, transforming and growing, in a number of ways.

* Explore and learn the beliefs of others
* Reflect and grow their own beliefs and worldviews
* Transform into spiritual, considerate and compassionate adults

# The Legal Position

Every maintained school in England must provide a basic curriculum (Religion and Worldviews, sex education and the National Curriculum). This includes provision for Religion and Worldviews for all registered pupils at the school, except for those withdrawn by their parents (see paragraph below). As a voluntary controlled school, Religion and Worldviews is therefore taught in accordance with the Locally Agreed Syllabus ([*The Oxfordshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2023*](https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/file/school/OxfordshireAgreedSyllabus2023-28.pdf)*)* while also reflecting the requirements of the Statement of Entitlement for Religious Education published by the Education Office of the Church of England in February 2019. The statutory section 48 (SIAMS) inspection will evaluate the way that Religion and Worldviews contributes to the Christian character of the school and the teaching of Religion and Worldviews will reflect this requirement.

# Purpose and Aims of Religion and Worldviews

The purpose of Religion and Worldviews 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 Religion and Worldviews in our school are:

1. Understand the nature, role and influence of religions and other worldviews, locally, nationally and globally.
2. Reflect on questions of meaning, purpose and value.
3. Formulate reasoned opinion and argument.
4. Enter into meaningful dialogue with people of different beliefs, worldviews, and backgrounds.

# Curriculum

The Religion and Worldviews curriculum at St Mary’s Primary School, follows the Locally Agreed Syllabus. The curriculum is structured around three strands;

Beliefs and questions will focus on theology, looking at the core beliefs and diverse interpretations of text, symbols and teachings of the chosen religions and worldviews.

Community and identity will focus on Human and Social Science and using data and other sources to examine practices and human expressions of religious and non-religious beliefs.

Reality and truth will focus on philosophy and ethics, looking at how people decide what is true and reliable drawing on the worldviews covered in the other units. It is in these units that pupils will have the opportunity to explore the wider concept of what a worldview is and how people reach these ideas.

# Teaching, Learning and Assessment

The lessons are either discrete stand-alone units or part of the cross curricular project approach and will follow the Agreed Syllabus expectations;

At KS1, pupils will explore: i) Christianity in depth, ii) one other Abrahamic religion in depth, iii) with reference to one Dharmic tradition and non-religious perspectives

At LKS2, pupils will explore: i. Christianity in depth, ii. one other Abrahamic religion in depth, iii. one Dharmic tradition in depth iv. with reference to other religions and perspectives, as appropriate.

At UKS2, pupils will explore: i. Christianity in depth, ii. one other Abrahamic religion in depth, iii. one Dharmic tradition in depth, iv. Humanism, v. With reference to other religious traditions, as appropriate

We plan lessons using a variety of teaching resources; including Understanding Christianity Scheme of work and the Diocesan Scheme of Work as well as linking our learning to our cross curricular projects.

Assessment is a statutory requirement of the Agreed Syllabus. We will report pupil attainment and progress to parents annually. We will use the progression statements and end of Key Stage statements to measure and report progress. We will use the ODBE scheme of work knowledge building blocks to support the assessment process.

Please note that there are aspects of Religion and Worldviews, such as personal development and personal beliefs and attitudes, that should not be judged or assessed in themselves, subject to legislative provision concerning safeguarding.

# Monitoring and Evaluation

The RE subject leader and SLT will monitor teaching and learning in Religion and Worldviews 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.

# Resources

The RE subject leader will ensure that Religion and Worldviews 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

Pupils may be withdrawn from Religion and Worldviews or part of Religion Worldviews by a parent or guardian (or withdrawing themselves if they are aged 18 or over) in accordance with Schedule 19 to the School Standards and Framework Act 1998; teachers can exercise their right to withdraw from teaching the subject. However, we hope that all parents and teachers will feel comfortable with the type of religious education being taught at this school. Parents who wish to withdraw their children must provide written notification to this effect and provide suitable activities for their children. The school will keep pupils safe but will not provide any work or reading material for pupils who have been withdrawn.

# Policy Review

This policy should be reviewed regularly in line with schools' procedures. An annual review is recommended if possible, but review must be done within a 3-year period in line with the school’s procedure.