"Aspire to be your best self by living, learning, growing together with God's love"

Kindness **Truth &Forgiveness** **Respect** **Perseverance** **Co-operation** **Courage**

Butleigh Church of England Primary School

Policy for Religious Education (RE)

Head Teacher: Kristin Moth
Chair of Governors: Wendy Jenner
Approval Date: February 2026
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In our school our Christian vision shapes all we do. "**Aspire to be our best self by living, learning, and growing together in God's love"**

'The essential place of religious education (RE) in a Church school flows from our deep commitment to the flourishing of every child articulated in our Vision for Education.1 This document sets out the aim for young people to leave school with a rich and well-informed understanding of Christianity. Equally important is the development of a commitment to generous hospitality, expressed through deep respect for the integrity of other religious and belief traditions, and for the religious freedom of every individual.' (RE Statement of Entitlement, National Society of Education 2026)

Policy Statement

Religious Education (RE) has a very high profile within the Butleigh C of E Primary School curriculum and makes a significant contribution to preparing pupils for life in modern Britain. Learning activities provide fully for the needs of all learners. Pupils will be inspired by the subject and develop a wide range of skills such as enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and reflection, to deepen their understanding of the impact of religion on the world. Christianity is taught as a global, living and diverse faith, focused on the teachings of Jesus and the Church, alongside a range of religions and worldviews. Religious Education encourages pupils to learn from different religions, beliefs, values and traditions while creating a safe space for them to explore their own beliefs and questions of meaning.

Legal Requirements

As a Voluntary Controlled (VC) School, at Butleigh C of E Primary School we are required to follow the Somerset Locally Agreed Syllabus 2025 drawn up by the standing Advisory Council for Religious Education [SACRE].

As an academy, at Butleigh C of E Primary School 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 Somerset agreed syllabus, with additional teaching on Christianity. 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)

Manging the right to withdraw

Parents have a right by law to withdraw their children from the Religious Education curriculum. In this event, we will undertake responsibility for their supervision with regard to health and safety. Information on these arrangements are clear on our website. There will always be opportunity for parents to discuss the contents of the RE curriculum should they have concerns.

Aims of RE

- To enable pupils to know about and understand Christianity as a living faith that influences the lives of people worldwide and as the religion that has most shaped British culture and heritage.
- To enable pupils to know about and understand other major world religions and worldviews, their impact on society, culture and the wider world, and to appreciate the diversity, continuity and change within those religions and worldviews.
- To engage with challenging questions of meaning and purpose.
- To contribute to the development of pupils' own spiritual/philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own beliefs and values.

Teaching and Learning

In line with the Church of England RE Statement of Entitlement [2026] RE at Butleigh C of E Primary School. 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.

Implementation

- Religious education may be taught in a 'whole class' setting but with flexibility to allow for discussion, questioning and reflection in small groups and individually.
- Visits to local churches and other places of worship are encouraged.
- A variety of teaching approaches are encouraged:
- Teacher presentations, role play, drama and story telling
- Questions and answer sessions, discussions and debates
- Individual and group research
- Photographs, pictures, surveys and maps
- IT, film, podcasts, radio and websites, to research and communicate ideas. IT, film, radio clips, websites, to research and communicate ideas.

Curriculum balance and time

Reflecting Butleigh C of E Primary School's status, Christianity should be the majority religion studied and should be at least 50% of curriculum time. Sufficient dedicated curriculum time, meeting explicitly RE objectives, should be given to RE. This should aim to be close to 10% but no less than 5% in key stages 1 and 2

Resources

- RE artefact collection stored in school display cabinet
- High quality Texts – supporting in depth teacher's knowledge
- Children's Bibles – Lion Storyteller Bibles, Good News Bibles
- Teachers of RE in Somerset schools can borrow, free of charge, boxes of artefacts from SACRE resource centres.
- Diocese of Bath & Wells Centre: a comprehensive collection of material to support RE and Collective Worship for all schools. Resource Boxes linked to AMV units available.
  Email: **resourcecentre@bathwells.anglican.org** Website: **www.bathwells.anglican.org** for online catalogue
- Somerset Schools Museum Service Tel: 01823 320200 Email: **county-museums@somerset.gov.uk**
- Resources4Learning, Parkway, Bridgwater Tel: 01278 421015

Monitoring, Evaluation, Assessment, Recording, Reporting

- Governors have responsibility for monitoring how the RE in the school reflects its Christian vision.
- The headteacher has overall responsibility for monitoring and evaluation.
- The RE subject lead will assist the headteacher by monitoring planning.
- The RE subject lead will assist the headteacher by monitoring RE through work scrutinies.
- The RE lead will keep a file of examples of work to demonstrate continuity and progression.
- The RE lead will manage resources.
- The RE lead will endeavour to keep up to date with information, initiatives and developments in religious education and disseminate this as appropriate.
- The RE lead will be aware of staff development needs and encourage continuing professional development.
- The RE lead will facilitate the sharing of good practice.
- The RE lead will be responsible for drawing up an action plan for religious education. Generally, this will be an annual plan and should be informed by this policy.
- The RE lead will liaise with the Diocesan adviser with responsibility for Religious Education.