Malvern Parish CE Primary School

'Learning Together for an Exciting Future'

At Malvern Parish our vision is for all children and adults to become aware of their God given gifts so they can flourish as individuals, achieve academically and build firm foundations for the future.

This vision is deeply rooted in strong Christian tradition and based upon:

"I come that they may have life and have it to the full". *John 10.10*

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, ***"plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*** Jeremiah 29.11

We seek to develop our vision through our Christian values of Friendship Respect, Trust, Peace, Truthfulness and Forgiveness and live out these values in every part of school life.



Malvern Parish CE Primary School

Religious Education Policy

At Malvern Parish we promote enjoyment, high academic and personal achievement. We aim to provide children with a love for learning and life. We nurture our children to enable them to:

- live life through our Christian Values - Respect, Friendship, Trust, Peace, Truthfulness and Forgiveness
- be happy, independent and self-confident
- be adaptable, determined, resilient and show perseverance when meeting new challenges
- be respectful, polite, tolerant and show empathy to pupils, staff and the wider community
- value others , be sociable, open minded and a great communicator
- be curious, enthusiastic, aspirational and ambitious
- be creative, questioning and have a sense of adventure
- understand and aspire to living a healthy lifestyle

As a school we are committed to providing our children with:

- a happy and interesting learning environment
- positive role models who embody our Christian Values
- an exciting and creative curriculum which prepares children for living in modern Britain
- 'Essential Learning Experiences' to enrich learning and teaching opportunities
- the time to appreciate, explore, investigate and play in the local environment
- the opportunity to share their achievements with parents and the wider community
- a voice to share their thoughts and feelings, whilst helping to shape our school for the future
- the chance to take part competitively and co-operatively so to understand the importance of participation and learn to manage successes and disappointments
- As a Church school we give the highest priority to enabling our children to live happy and safe lives. We will implement this policy to reflect our distinctive Christian values.

'Learning Together for an Exciting Future'

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.

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.

Malvern Parish CE Primary School is a Voluntary Controlled School and Church of England Academy, therefore Religious Education is provided in-line with the funding agreement and the academy 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

Our core Christian values of **Friendship, Respect, Trust, Peace, Truthfulness and Forgiveness** are an integral part of vision: **Learning Together for an exciting future.**

Building on these themes, RE in this school contributes to the outworking of our vision by assisting children in their exploration of the meaning of life. By learning about religions, beliefs and worldviews it may support them in making life choices now and in their future lives. We hope to encourage children's feelings of awe, wonder and mystery. All children will develop an understanding and respect for others and the part that religion plays in people's lives. Our aim is to ignite a curiosity to learn about religion that will help children understand about faiths, beliefs and how religion has influenced both the development of mankind and the society in which we live.

Religious Education Intent

The intent of Religious Education at Malvern Parish CE Primary School is to engage and challenge pupils to explore different religious beliefs and worldviews. They will use this knowledge to develop responses of their own, allowing them to grow and flourish as individuals

At Malvern Parish school children are encouraged to ask big questions. They reflect on what it means to have faith and what difference it makes to people's lives. In doing so children are helped to explore their own spiritual identity, to look at themselves, the wider world and develop their vision of the divine.

The objectives of teaching religious education at Malvern Parish Primary School are therefore to help children to:

1. Develop an awareness of spiritual and moral issues arising in their lives
2. Develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other major world religions
3. Be able to reflect upon their own experiences and begin to develop a personal response to the fundamental questions of life and to feel confident to pose big questions and explore issues with an open mind.
4. Develop investigative and research skills, make reasoned judgements about religious, social, moral and cultural issues.
5. Have respect for other people's views and beliefs and understand that these may differ from their own. Appreciate the cultural diversity in Britain today.
6. Help children to learn about religions but also to learn from them.

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:

- 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.

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. In 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 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.

Assessment / Recording & Reporting

The Worcestershire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2025-2030 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.

Progress is assessed in terms of the development of knowledge, understanding and skills. Teachers will gather information about pupils and assess against the learning outcomes for lessons and outcomes from the Worcestershire Agreed Syllabus. This informs future planning.

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 Malvern Parish CE Primary School some of the responsibilities for RE may be delegated to other members of staff.

The **Subject Leader** 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 into 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
- 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 and 7.

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.*
- *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 Malvern Parish CE Primary 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.

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 …… years. 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:**
Chair of Governors signed:	**Date:**
Date of next review:	**Date:**