

## **St Cuthbert's C of E Academy Infants and Pre-School**

### **Religious Education Policy**

**Review Date: December 2028**

This policy sets out the provision and the aims of religious education at St Cuthbert's c of E Academy infants and Pre-School, following the Somerset Agreed Syllabus for RE 2022 – 2027. RE is a statutory subject for all registered pupils. Parents retain the right to withdraw their child, and staff follow Somerset guidance on managing withdrawal sensitively.

#### **School Vision and Ethos**

RE at St Cuthbert's School supports the development of the whole child spiritually, morally, socially, and culturally. The Somerset syllabus emphasises curiosity, reflection and respect, which aligns with our schools' values. We aim to nurture children to understand themselves and others in an increasingly diverse local and global community.

#### **Aims (Somerset Syllabus)**

In accordance with the Somerset Agreed Syllabus, RE enables children to:

- Make sense of a range of religious and non-religious beliefs (Strand A Believing)
- Understand the impacts of these beliefs on individuals, communities, and wider society (Strand B Expressing / Impact)
- Make connections between the beliefs studied and their own ideas, experiences, and values (Strand C Living/ Connecting)

At infant level the focus is on exploration, simple enquiry, and building foundational understanding.

#### **Curriculum Structure**

We follow the statutory expectations for Early Years foundation stage (EYFS) and Key Stage 1 as set out in the Somerset Syllabus.

#### **EYFS (Reception)**

Learning is structured around the EYFS areas of learning, using RE to support:

- Understanding the world
- Personal, social, and emotional development
- Communication and Language

Themes often include:

- Special people
- Special places
- Special times
- Belonging
- Stories and traditions

#### **Key Stage 1: Required Coverage:**

Somerset mandates the study of:

- Christianity (through KS1 core focus)
- Judaism and Islam (one other religion minimum, Somerset recommend both)
- Non-religious worldviews referenced naturally where appropriate
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Typical enquiry questions may include:

- What do Christians believe God is like?
- Why is mosque / Synagogue important to Muslims /Jews?
- How do some people show they belong?
- Why do we celebrate special times?

We use Somerset's Enquiry cycle (Engage – Enquire – Explore – Evaluate – Express) to structure units.

For KS1 this is delivered through:

- Weekly RE lessons
- Supplementary cross-curricular opportunities
- Additional curriculum enrichment (visits, visitors, cultural days)

EYFS receives RE through integrated provision rather than discrete weekly lessons.

### **Teaching and Learning**

We use a range of approaches recommended by the Somerset Syllabus:

- Story based learning
- Role play, drama and imaginary play
- Use of artefacts and sensory exploration
- Art, music, and creative activities
- Structured enquiry and questioning
- Visits to local places of worship
- Visitors from recognised faith communities

Teaching is inclusive, age-appropriate, and experimental, reflecting the needs of infant learners.

### **Assessment**

Assessment follows the end of KS1 outcomes in Somerset's syllabus. Teachers assess pupil's progress against:

- Making sense of beliefs
- Understanding the impact
- Making connections

Assessment is mainly observational and qualitative, with evidence gathered through:

- Pupil voice

- Work samples
- Photos of practical activities
- Observed discussions

No formal test is used.

### **Inclusion and SEND**

All pupils have equal access to RE. Tasks are adapted and scaffolded to ensure children with SEND, EAL or other needs can fully engage.

### **Resources**

We maintain high quality resources in line with the Somerset syllabus expectations, including:

- Artefacts from major faiths
- Storybooks and pictures books
- Digital resource
- Festivals, clothing, religious symbols

Staff receive CPD linked to the Somerset syllabus and local SACRE support.

### **Visits and Visitors**

We enrich RE through:

- Visits to local churches and other religious buildings
- Visits from trained local faith communities

All visits follow school safeguarding and risk assessment procedures.

### **Parent Withdrawal**

Parents may request withdrawal from RE in line with the law. The school will:

- Discuss concerns with parents
- Explain the aims and nature of RE in Somerset
- Provide alternative supervised activities if a withdrawal occurs

We aim to resolve concerns through open communication.

### **Monitoring and Review**

The RE Lead at school monitors:

- Long, medium term planning
- Lesson quality
- Children's engagement and progress
- Alignment with the Somerset syllabus
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This policy is reviewed every three years or sooner if the Somerset syllabus is updated