

Cam Hopton Church of England Primary School (Voluntary Aided)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

'Life in all its Fullness' (John 10:10)
"I have come that they may have life and have it to the full".

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This policy is to be reviewed in line with other related policies and any other documentation from the DfE, Ofsted and Gloucestershire Diocese.

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1.0 Introduction

Religious Education is central to the purpose of Cam Hopton Church of England Primary School because as a church school we see that our faith informs all aspects of our life together and commits us to a search for truth.

Religious Education in Cam Hopton Church of England Primary School explores how individuals and communities make meaning and sense of their lives through the great religions of the world. It enables pupils to know about, understand and respond to the important and ultimate questions of life. Religious Education is taught in such a way that it inspires pupils to explore, develop and affirm their own faith and values and have respect for the faith, beliefs and values of others.

The Governors of Cam Hopton have adopted the Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2026 together with Understanding Christianity, which is used throughout the school.

2.0 Aims

- To show children that Christianity is about following the living God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit and is relevant in their daily lives.
- Develop pupil's knowledge and understanding of Christian beliefs and practices so that they understand the importance of the Bible, the role of the church and recognise that for Christians their faith provides a way of interpreting life and its meaning.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of the beliefs and practices of some of the other principal religions in Britain.
- Understand how belief may impact on culture, relationships, values and lifestyle.
- Understand how belief can be expressed in a variety of ways including art, dance, ritual celebration and in different cultural settings.
- Assist pupils in their own search for meaning and purpose in life.
- Enable pupils to develop spiritually, morally, culturally and socially by helping them to reflect upon personal feelings and relationships.
- To help pupils develop a sense of awe, wonder and mystery.
- To explore the concepts of love, forgiveness, sacrifice and justice
- To develop skills of reflection, empathy, communication, analysis and evaluation.
- To develop attitudes of respect, sensitivity, open mindedness and self-esteem.

3.0 Approaches

Religious Education within the school is generally taught as a separate subject although cross curricular links are often made. In reception class, Religious Education is an integral part of the topic work covered during the year. In line with the DfE's EYFS Profile aspects of the children's learning will relate to the objectives set out in both the Early Learning Years Outcomes and the Early Learning Goals which underpin the curriculum planning, together with Understanding Christianity and the Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus.

4.0 Organisation

Religious Education is taught for the equivalent of 60 minutes per week at Key Stage 1, totalling 36 hours over the year. In Key Stage 2, children should be taught Religious Education for 75 minutes per week, totalling 45 hours over the year. Religious Education will be taught throughout the school mainly by the class teacher, although may be supported by clergy and visiting speakers where appropriate. In this school the faiths taught in Religious Education in KS1 are Christianity, Judaism and Islam and in KS2 Christianity, Judaism, Islam and Hinduism.

5.0 Methods

A variety of methods may be used in the delivery of the Religious Education Curriculum including:

- Teacher input – presentations, role play and story telling
- Individual research
- Visit to places of worship
- Question and answer sessions, discussions and debates
- Investigating artefacts
- Audio visual aids
- Photographs, pictures and maps
- Practical activities (eg making and tasting)
- Religious Education may be integrated with other subjects as appropriate.

6.0 Spiritual Development

Teachers should be able to create significant opportunities for spiritual development in Religious Education by enabling pupils to:

- Express feelings in drama role play, music and poetry – express creativity.
- Speaking and listening - asking questions; reflecting, expressing thoughts and feelings.
- Learning about values – rules for living, belonging to groups, religious practices.
- Origin of the world and universe; the value of the environment; order and purpose – creation stories; sense of wonder and mystery about the world.

7.0 Assessment

A variety of forms of assessment are used in Religious Education. These will include:

- All pupils will be assessed based on end of phase outcomes, linked to the teaching and learning approach, making sense of belief/texts; understanding the impact; making connections, found in the Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2026 and Understanding Christianity 2016.
- Observations
- Listening and questioning
- Pupils written work
- Pupils self assessment

Records will be kept by the class teacher and the Religious Education Coordinator. Samples of work will be kept by the Religious Education Coordinator.

Summative reports to parents will be made at the end of each academic year.

8.0 Legal Requirements

Parents have a legal right to withdraw their children from Religious Education lessons, but as Religious Education is so central to the life and identity of Cam Hopton Church of England Primary School, we would ask parents to discuss with the Head Teacher any reasons they might have for doing this.

9.0 Key Principles

- The scheme of work for Religious Education will maintain a balance between the three end of phase outcomes:
 - To make sense of a range of religious and non-religious beliefs/texts.
 - To understand the impact and significance of religious and non-religious beliefs.
 - To make connections between religious and non-religious beliefs, concepts, practices and ideas studied.
- There will be clear learning outcomes for all units of work.
- The scheme of work will ensure that there is continuity and progression for pupils.
- A range of teaching and learning activities will ensure that pupils learn effectively and with interest.

10.0 Role of the Head Teacher

The Head Teacher will:

- Ensure that Religious Education is taught to the Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education (2026) and Understanding Christianity 2016.
- Ensure all school personnel, pupils and parents are aware of and comply with this policy.
- Work closely with the Religious Education governor and coordinator.
- Provide leadership and vision in respect of equality.
- Provide guidance, support and training to all staff.
- Monitor the effectiveness of this policy.
- Annually report to the Governing Body on the success and development of this policy.

11.0 Role of the RE Coordinator

The RE coordinator will:

- Lead the development of this policy throughout the school.
- Work closely with the Head Teacher and the nominated governor;
- Provide guidance and support to all staff;
- Provide training for all staff on induction and when the need arises.
- Be aware of national and local developments through reading appropriate materials and attending courses.
- Coordinate assessment procedure and record keeping so as to facilitate progression and cohesion.
- Annually report to the Governing Body on the success and development of this policy

12.0 Role of the Nominated Governor

The Nominated Governor will:

- Work closely with the Head Teacher and the coordinator.
- Ensure this policy and other linked policies are up to date.
- Ensure that everyone connected with the school is aware of this policy.
- Annually report to the Governing Body on the success and development of this policy.

13.0 Role of School Personnel

School personnel will:

- Comply with all aspects of this policy;
- Organise structured and differentiated work through their long, medium and short term planning;
- Use a variety of teaching and learning styles
- Ensure that assessments and evaluations are carried out at the end of each unit of work.

14.0 Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

We recognise the need to tailor our approach to support children with:

- special educational needs and disabilities and those who are identified as gifted and talented.

15.0 Inclusion

All children at this school are taught Religious Education whatever their ability, race or gender.

16.0 Equality Impact Assessment

Under the Equality Act 2010 we have a duty not to discriminate against people on the basis of their age, disability, gender, gender identity, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation.

17.0 Resources

All year groups will follow the Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education (2026) and Understanding Christianity 2016. The Religious Education coordinator will keep all staff up to date with new developments and resources.

Cam Hopton CE Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

This school aims to serve the community by providing high quality education and promoting Christian Values.