



Religious Education at

St Nicholas C of E

'Together we love, learn and flourish'

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart.
Colossians 3:23

September 2024

At St Nics, we aspire to nurture an inclusive community where every individual is loved and valued for who they are, so that they recognise and realise their unique talents and potential.

We flourish through loving ourselves, each other, our school and the wider world. We grow in compassion and confidence and develop our resilience through the courage to embrace learning and new challenges.



Introduction

At St Nicholas C of E Primary School, RE plays an important role in expressing the Christian vision of the school. RE reflects the ethos and values that are held and promotes understanding of people of all faiths and none. RE has the same high status as any other subject and contributes to the overall development of our children from all backgrounds and traditions.

The Legal Position

Every maintained school in England must provide a basic curriculum (RE, sex education and the National Curriculum). This includes provision for RE for all registered pupils at the school (including those in the sixth form), except for those withdrawn by their parents (see paragraph below). As a voluntary controlled school, RE is therefore taught in accordance with the Locally Agreed Syllabus, ([Click here to see the scheme overview](#)) while also reflecting the requirements of the [Statement of Entitlement](#) published by the Education Office of the Church of England in February 2019. The statutory section 48 (SIAMS) inspection will evaluate the way that RE contributes to the Christian character of the school and the teaching of RE will reflect this requirement.

Purpose and Aims of RE

The purpose of RE is to teach children about the religious and non-religious world-views 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 RE in our school are for children:

- To know about and understand Christianity as a diverse global living faith through the exploration of core beliefs using an approach that critically engages with biblical text.
- To gain knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews appreciating diversity, continuity and change within the religions and worldviews being studied.
- To engage with challenging questions of meaning and purpose raised by human existence and experience.
- To recognise the concept of religion and its continuing influence on Britain's cultural heritage and in the lives of individuals and societies in different times, cultures and places.
- To explore their own religious, spiritual and philosophical ways living, believing and thinking.



Curriculum and Time Allocation

The RE curriculum at St Nics follows the Locally Agreed Syllabus. Christianity is taught in every year group, with key concepts revisited on a spiral curriculum. **At least 50% of the time is devoted to Christianity.** Other religions are covered according to the syllabus; eg Judaism in KS1, Hinduism & Sikhism/Islam in KS2.

The total time for RE is between 5% and 10%, and it is taught in weekly dedicated lessons and across other areas of the curriculum and the children's learning is recorded in 'floor books'. The time dedicated to RE is separate from the time given to Collective Worship. In KS1 this will amount to approximately 36 hours per year; in KS2 this rises to 45 hours per year.

Teaching, Learning and Assessment

RE is taught using an enquiry-based approach, that is challenging and robust. Learning will be organised to encourage the development of attitudes such as self-awareness, respect for all, open-mindedness, appreciation and wonder, as well as providing opportunities to engage appropriately with Fundamental British Values. All faiths are treated respectfully, and opportunities will be made to engage in age-appropriate, meaningful discussion. Where possible, children will encounter believers and visit places of worship.

A variety of resources, styles, and techniques will be used as appropriate to enable all children to make progress in RE regardless of their starting points, ability or background.

Assessment procedures will follow those of the Agreed Syllabus and be in accordance with other assessment and feedback procedures in the school. Children will engage in a variety of activities which will also enable teachers to assess what they have learnt. Records kept will include information about children's experiences and judgements about their knowledge, as well as being used to inform future planning.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The RE subject leader monitors teaching and learning in RE. The RE subject leader will observe teaching, conduct book and planning reviews and obtain children's thoughts about the subject, when appropriate, to assess the quality of teaching and learning.

Resources

The RE subject leader will ensure that RE 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.

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The Right of Withdrawal

Children may be withdrawn from RE or part of RE 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 our school. Parents who wish to withdraw their children must notify the school.

Review

This document will be reviewed regularly in line with schools' procedures. An annual review is preferable, however a review will be done within a 3-year period.

