

Old Dalby Church of England Primary School



Religious Education Policy

Approved by:	Teaching Staff
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Next review due by:	September 2025
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**Kind hearts. Open Minds. Courageous Spirits
Together, we will explore life in all its fullness.**

Let us be concerned for one another, to help one another to show love and to do good.
Hebrews 10:24

Our Vision

Kind hearts. Open minds. Courageous spirits.
Together, we will explore life in all its fullness.

This a promise that we, as a whole school, will educate children to be accepting, thoughtful and courageous. Our pupils will show kindness and love to everyone around them, our pupils will understand, accept and celebrate diversity, they will recognise injustices and speak up when they see them.

This will be achieved through a curriculum based on a skills progression of our eight Christian values. We will ensure that the pupils build the skills to live our values. Our curriculum will provide knowledge of historical and current events to provide our children with context and understanding of the values. Children will learn to challenge what they see as an injustice and seek to right this. They will be ambitious, have the courage of their convictions and be empathetic to others. Through working closely with the local community and church, we will provide a warm, nurturing environment to foster ambition, curiosity, spirituality and love.

“Let us be concerned for one another, to help one another to show love and to do good.”

Hebrews 10:24

This policy is carried out within the context and spirit of the school’s vision and mission statement. It supports and reinforces the aims of Old Dalby C of E Primary School, valuing all children equally whilst ensuring all children achieve their potential.

We ensure that our school:

- Motivates each child so that they develop intellectually, spiritually physically and morally, within a secure and happy working environment
- Challenges children to stand up and speak out when they see injustice
- Provides work within a broad curriculum to develop lively, open and enquiring minds
- Helps children to acquire knowledge and skills relevant to their needs, laying the foundation for the next phase of their education
- Develops an awareness of self, sensitivity to others and acceptance (not tolerance)
- Offers equal opportunities to all pupils throughout the curriculum
- Increases the children’s understanding of, and concern for, the environment and the wider world
- Identifies and monitors the progress of all pupils, ensuring that all children are enabled to achieve their full potential
- Supports the children in their development of morals and Christian values
- Facilitates the development of independent, motivated learners
- Provides a caring and friendly atmosphere, which fosters respect for each other and individual responsibility.

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“Schooling deprived of religious education is wretched education.”

Russell Risk

At Old Dalby C of E Primary School, children are taught to understand and respect the importance of religious beliefs in the world around them. We encourage children to use and develop their skills in RE and to participate in critical thinking. We aim to ensure that the RE curriculum is challenging, dynamic and relevant to pupils of all ages giving them a better understanding of the world that they live in.

Intent

At Old Dalby, we believe that learning is a change in long term memory. We believe children learn best by having opportunities to revisit previous learning. We teach RE in lessons, with some themed days and weeks included in the curriculum as well, so that the children can fully immerse themselves and have opportunities to reflect upon religion throughout everyday life and events. Year groups will study the same faiths at the same time, to allow for opportunities for whole school visits or visitors, but also to ensure a spiral curriculum which ensures opportunity for revisiting and then building on prior knowledge.

Religious Education and a ‘Christian Ethos’ is embedded throughout the school curriculum and everyday life at Old Dalby with the focus upon eight main Christian values: Community, Democracy, Strength, Courage, Friendship, Teamwork, Honesty, Love

The aims of R.E. include:

- To develop an awareness of how Christianity impacts the lives of millions of people today
- To enable pupils to learn about the other major religions.
- To develop understanding of a religious faith as the search for and expression of truth
- To contribute to the development of pupils own spiritual/philosophical beliefs

Implementation

Our RE curriculum design is based on principles derived from evidence through cognitive science:

- Learning is most effective with spaced repetition.
- Retrieval of previously learnt content is frequent and regular, which increases both storage and retrieval strength.

In addition to the principles, we also understand that learning is invisible in the short term and that sustained mastery takes time.

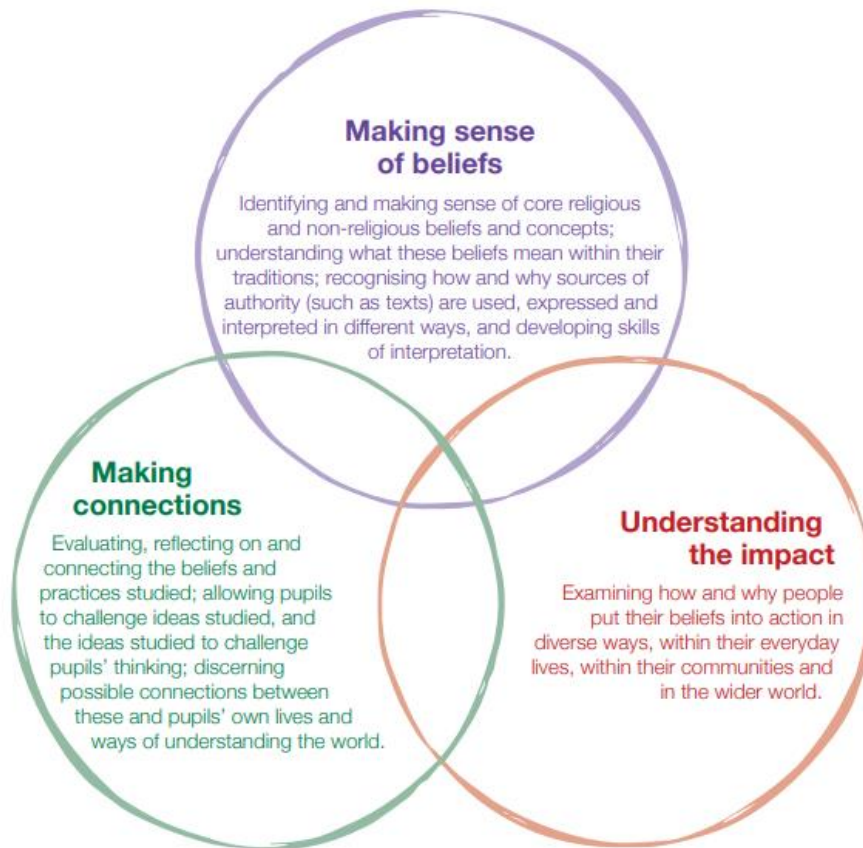
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We use a combination of RE Today, the 2022 Leicestershire Agreed Syllabus and Understanding Christianity across the school to teach RE. We place great importance on providing opportunities for everyone within the school community to continue their personal faith journey. During the school year there are many opportunities for the children to take part in school worship through collective worship and other religious celebrations. This is a time for the children to share their learning with our school community. They are given the opportunity to participate in worship as part of the wider community due to our strong relationship with our local church – St John the Baptist.

Our RE teaching addresses key questions. The *Leicestershire Agreed Syllabus* curriculum encourages pupils to explore core Bible texts, examine the impact for Christians and consider possible implications. Each unit incorporates the three elements:

- **Making sense of the text** – Where learners develop skills of reading and interpretation; understanding how Christians interpret, handle and use biblical texts; whilst making sense of the meanings of texts for Christians
- **Understanding the impact** – Where pupils examine ways in which Christians respond to biblical texts and teachings, and how they put their beliefs into action in diverse ways within the Christian community and in the world
- **Making connections** – Where pupils evaluate, reflect on and connect the texts and concepts studied, and discern possible connections between these and pupils' own lives and ways of understanding the world.

The children are exposed to key RE elements, from making sense of the text, through looking at the impact on the world of the Christian, and helping to make connections with the world of the pupil.



This model shows that our approach is not just getting pupils to learn what Christians think. Instead, it is about developing skills to help them ‘think theologically’ alongside learning lots of knowledge about the Bible, Christian belief and practice. It also shows that these three elements do not represent rigid, distinct steps, but that pupils can ‘make connections’ whilst ‘making sense of beliefs’ and then beginning to ‘understand the impact’ on people’s lives..

Additionally, the Diocesan curriculum explores additional units which consider Thematic teachings, Secularism and Multi-Faith teachings. These question driven units are carefully intertwined throughout the curriculum providing the learners with a broad and balanced curriculum, that explores the viewpoints, beliefs and practices of many.

In Early Years Foundation Stage, the children develop their understanding of the world, through practical activities, by learning about religion by doing, talking, listening, acting out and experiencing through their senses. All children are encouraged to make sense of their world by being given opportunities to explore and observe three of the core concepts of ‘The Big Story’ – creation, salvation and incarnation.

In Key Stage One, the children continue to develop their knowledge and understanding of religions whilst identifying features of religion and becoming more familiar with religions influence on their own community. They are beginning to identify features of

religion and how these may influence themselves and others through five of the core concepts of 'The Big Story' – creation, incarnation, salvation, God and gospel.

In Key Stage Two, the children aim to extend their knowledge and understanding of religions locally and worldwide. All children are encouraged to use specific vocabulary when exploring their curiosity and must create increasingly challenging higher-order questions about religious beliefs, values and human life. They make links between values and commitments, and their own attitudes and behaviour, as well as making links between religions and describe some similarities and differences both within and between religions. They are given the opportunity to express their own ideas and opinions in the response to the religious materials they come across. The ability to 'dig deep' and give reasons for their beliefs and opinions is vital at this stage of learning to ensure all children are challenged through six of the core concepts of 'The Big Story' – creation, incarnation, salvation, God of Kingdom, People of God and gospel.

Our commitment to providing our children with a diverse outlook on the world they live in, is enforced with each class having another religion to focus their comparisons to. This Multi-Faith coverage is shown below

- EYFS and Key Stage 1– Christians, Jews and Muslims
- Key Stage 2 – Christians, Jews, Hindus and Muslims

All children partake in whole school RE days where we will be joined by visitors or go on visits to broaden our experiences and support our comparisons between Christianity and the other religions.

The knowledge and skills required to excel in this subject are set out in the Understanding Christianity and the Durham and Newcastle curriculum documentation. Each member of teaching staff have received training and continue to have access to these documents as a supportive tool when planning in order to review previous learning; ensure a coherent curriculum outlining essential knowledge and skill development; and an accurate assessment tool.

The Governors are required to remind parents of their right to withdraw pupils from religious worship and education. However, parents are also reminded that the school exists to give a Christian education to its pupils and therefore parents are expected to be in sympathy with the aims and objectives of the school. It should be noted that parents who choose to exercise their right of withdrawal are responsible for the supervision of their children during these periods of withdrawal.

Our RE Learning

Each class has their own Long-term plan (LTP). This LTP maps out the progression of units over a two year cycle, whilst identifying focused vocabulary and suggested texts. Please click [here](#) to see our 'RE Learning Journey'.

Impact

The intended impact of our curriculum is that children build semantic and procedural knowledge; Children will have a sound understanding of how Science works in the world around them. They will be given the skills to investigate questions, answering them in an accurate and systematic way.

Assessment

Assessment judgements are informed by a pupil's progress against the objectives laid down in the school's curriculum document. We appreciate that in EYFS and Key Stage 1 the children will have a smaller general knowledge base to draw upon and in key stage 2 we will then expect to see them making more links to prior knowledge, comparing and contrasting as well as evaluating what they have learned.

Teachers will make a judgement of WTS (working towards the expected standard), EXP (Working at the expected standard) or GDS (working at greater depth). Judgements can be based on written work, formal and informal observations, and discussion.

Monitoring

Unit plans, knowledge organisers and medium term plans are monitored by SLT with responsibility for the curriculum. Curriculum coverage is included in the termly curriculum catch up conversations.

Community

Old Dalby C of E Primary School is proud of our community links, with the value woven through our curriculum. When possible, we like to invite members of our local community to share their experiences and knowledge by visiting classes.

Cultural Capital

Children will learn about areas of significant scientific interest such as biology, chemistry and physics. In addition, they will learn about famous scientists such as Albert Einstein, Marie Curie, Stephen Hawking and Charles Darwin.

They will also experience the following:

- Will be fully immersed in scientific enquiry throughout the school
- Meeting and talking to a scientist
- Workshops with scientists
- Experiences of industry through science
- Possible visits to scientific industries

Resources

Useful Websites

www.stem.org.uk

www.crickweb.co.uk

www.ogdentrust.com

www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize

www.explorify.wellcome.ac.uk