



“Show me your way, Lord teach me your paths.” Psalms (25.4)

RELIGION AND WORLDVIEW EDUCATION POLICY

RATIONALE

Religion and Worldview Education (RWE) at Almondsbury Primary School explores how individuals and communities make meaning and sense of their lives through the great religions of the world, with particular emphasis on the Christian faith. It also includes the study of non-religious worldviews and ways of understanding the world. RWE enables pupils to know about, understand and respond to the important and ultimate questions of life. It is taught in a way that inspires pupils to explore, develop and affirm their own beliefs and values—religious or non-religious—and to show respect for the faiths, beliefs and values of others.

AIMS

- 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 in all its fullness. Close links will be maintained with the local Church.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of the beliefs and practices of some of the other principal religions such as Islam, Hinduism and Judaism and non-religious worldviews such as Humanism.
- Understand how belief and worldview may impact upon culture, relationships, values and lifestyle.
- Assist children to develop the capacity to explore and reflect upon questions of meaning and purpose in life.
- Enable pupils to develop spiritually, morally, socially and emotionally through reflection upon personal feelings and relationships.
- Develop a sense of awe, wonder and mystery.
- Develop the pupil’s skills of prayer and reflection, spirituality, empathy, communication, analysis and evaluation etc.
- Develop attitudes of respect, sensitivity and tolerance.
- Develop opportunities or courageous advocacy through Character Education.

GUIDELINES

- Children are taught Christianity through the SACRE Agreed Scheme of Work ‘Understanding Christianity’. The South Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus for

Religious Education (2022 – 2027) is the statutory document to which the RE SOW is matched for non-Christian units.

- RWE is a statutory part of the Basic Curriculum and will be given at least 5% of Curriculum time.
- Parents have a legal right to withdraw their children but as RWE is so central to the life and identity of Almondsbury School, we would ask parents to discuss with the Headteacher any reasons they might have for doing this.

In EYFS Children will encounter Christianity and other faiths, as part of their growing sense of self, their own community and their place within it.

At Key Stage One pupils focus on Christianity, Islam and Judaism.

Key Stage Two pupils focus upon Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and non-religious worldviews such as Humanism.

- RWE is taught through three disciplinary lenses—Theology, Philosophy and Human/Social Sciences (Sociology). Pupils develop disciplinary knowledge by exploring each lens through three characters: Theo (the theological lens), Sophie (the philosophical lens) and Livvi (the human/social sciences lens). These characters help introduce disciplinary thinking in an age-appropriate way and each unit or lesson is rooted in one of these disciplines to support pupils in understanding how knowledge in religion and worldviews is formed, questioned and applied.
- Because of the broad nature of RWE, it will form cross-curriculum links with other subjects such as English, Art or Drama. A balance between the two attainment targets is maintained with clear learning outcomes for all units of work.
- RWE is inclusive and taught at an appropriate level to the needs and abilities of the pupils.
- Wherever possible, a range of visitors will be invited and visits arranged to support the teaching and learning of RWE. The new SOW offers a variety of suggestions for visits linked to the local Bristol and South Gloucestershire areas.

MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

- The RWE subject leaders will support and monitor assessment of RWE and will liaise and report to the Governing Body the progress in RWE.
- Assessment of RWE in South Gloucestershire is matched closely to the assessment systems of English and Maths. The children are assessed at Developing, Secure and Greater Depth. RWE is reported to parents via the annual report and is assessed as 'working towards standard', 'at standard' and 'above standard'.

RIGHT TO WITHDRAW FROM RWE

Parents have the statutory right under Section 71 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 to request their child/ren are wholly or partly excused from:

RE lessons in accordance with the schools' basic curriculum

Acts of Collective Worship in schools

As parents, you do not have to provide a reason for requesting the withdrawal. However before exercising any right of withdrawal we would recommend you discuss your concerns with the Executive Headteacher, Head of School or RWE leaders.

Important - limitations to withdraw

If pupils are withdrawn from RE, schools have a duty to supervise them, though not to provide additional teaching. A pupil may be required to work in another area of the school, such as library/middle area.

Whilst parents or carers have a right to withdraw children from RE, they should note that child/ren may also encounter religions and beliefs and wider aspects of faith in other areas of the National Curriculum from which there is no right of withdrawal.

On occasion, spontaneous questions about religious matters are raised by pupils or issues related to religion arise in other curriculum subjects such as history or PSHE. For example, schools promote community cohesion and help pupils to understand ideas about identity and diversity, feelings and emotions within both religious and non-religious contexts.

Managing the Right of Withdrawal

All requests for withdrawals should be made in writing, addressed to the headteacher.

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 where it is feasible and appropriate.

Where a request for withdrawal is made, the school must comply and excuse the pupil until the request is rescinded. Though not legally required, it is good practice for a headteacher to invite parents to discuss their written request.

(Section 71(3), School Standards and Framework Act 1998).

CONCLUSION

“Religious Education should enable pupils to consider and respond to important questions related to their own spiritual development, the development of values and attitudes and fundamental questions concerning the meaning and purpose of life” (QCA 1999).

All staff, parents and Governors have been made aware of the contents of this policy, the implications for them and the education of their pupils.

The individuals responsible for the leadership of RWE are Debbie Leonard and Yasmin Ramli.

Revised June 2026

This policy will be reviewed in 2028.