

St Laurence Church Infant School

Religious Education Policy



Approved by: Headteacher

Last revised on: May 2026

Next review due by: May 2029

"Do all things with love: Love of learning life and each other"

Intent

Why do we teach RE?

At St Laurence Church Infant School, we do all things with love. Our RE curriculum is a key way we can show our children the impact of this vision. As a Rights Respecting School, our RE curriculum enables our children as right holders to learn how to share and respect other children's views. As well as to have the freedom to believe and think what they want.



Our children told us:

"We love RE because it is fun to learn about Christianity and other faiths." "It is important because we can learn what other people believe." "In RE we get to create and discover and try different food for celebrations." "We want to go on more trips to discover how other people celebrate."

Our primary purpose is to teach our children about religious faiths and world views to enable them to understand and explore what they and others believe and why. Through this they learn to understand that it is okay to have different views from each other, but that we should still treat everyone with respect. The British Values of mutual respect and tolerance are particularly key in the subject of RE. By developing these things, we can help ourselves, each other and our community together to flourish.

At St Laurence Infant School, we "do all things with love" and so we want each child to develop spiritually, morally, culturally, mentally and physically within a Christian environment. We want to help each child achieve a personal awareness of God, a sense of respect for one another and an understanding of the Christian faith (and the liturgical year of the Church). We want to enable children to develop an understanding of religious and moral values, and to have a respect for all religions and ways of life.

Our RE Curriculum is designed to develop five core characteristics in our pupils, which we believe will lay the foundations for them to be lifelong learners and good global citizens. These drivers are:



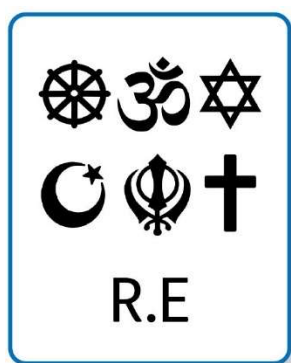
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Our aims in teaching RE at St Laurence Church Infant School help all children to..

- **Feel part of a Community** by:
 - Responding sensitively to questions about their own and others ideas
 - Experiencing other children's beliefs and cultures
 - By seeing that religious people have different ways of showing they belong together
- **Be Creative** by:
 - Appreciate and respond to artwork showing key events in different beliefs
 - Thinking about the views they hold and how they respond to others views
- **Develop Curiosity** by:
 - Interacting with other beliefs
 - Fostering enjoyment through artefacts and faith stories
- **Communicate confidently** by:
 - Making comments about what they have heard
 - Having opportunities to pray
 - Writing about their own beliefs and traditions
- **Care for ourselves, others and our world**
 - Discovering how different beliefs think about the world
 - Considering ways to look after our world
 - Think, talk and ask questions about our amazing world

Implementation

Visual Timetable Icon:



Subject Jingle:

*"This RE it is fun,
Seeing the faiths of everyone.
Using artefacts, books and visits too.
Discover what faith means for you."*

(Tune of This Old Man)

How we teach RE?

Our Religious Education lessons help children to acquire knowledge and understanding of religious traditions and beliefs but also to develop the child's spiritual awareness. RE is taught in both the Early Years Foundation Stage and in Key Stage One for 1 hour each week. Each lesson includes an opportunity for spiritual reflection. During a typical RE lesson, the children will explore a range of activities providing challenge and the chance to learn from RE for themselves. The children will explore ways of responding to Christianity, Islam and Judaism as well responding to their own and others life experiences and world views, for example, through worship, drama and art.

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A variety of resources including artefacts, games, role play, puzzles, books, posters, resource packs and a selection of children's Bibles are available to support creative learning and teaching. The curriculum is enhanced through educational visits and in school experience days to support the RE curriculum. These include visits to St Laurence Church, Masjid Usman Mosque, St John's and St Peter's Parish Church and Jewish Way of Life. Evidence of the children's work is recorded in each class's RE Learning Journey which records key examples of the learning that has taken place in RE as a class.

How we plan RE?

We use the exemplar materials from the Diocese of Guildford (for a school with a majority of Christian pupils) from the Surrey Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education. The two attainment targets of the syllabus are:

1. Learning from religion.
2. Learning about religions.

We develop key RE skills with our children through the religious tradition of Christianity. In addition, the units of God, Creation, Salvation, Incarnation and Gospel are created using the Understanding Christianity resource to support the teaching of Christianity. This ensures that the beliefs and practices of Christians are explored in a deeper way. Teachers use these materials as a basis for the weekly planning of exciting lessons and activities which challenge children to think about religion and explore it for themselves.

Cross Curricular Links

Issues considered within PSED in the Early Years Foundation Stage, and the PSHE curriculum in Key Stage One, may also be considered from the perspective of faith.

How we ensure all children access the RE curriculum.

When planning Religious Education lessons, the children's varying levels of ability are considered. Activities are scaffolded to allow for a wide range of abilities and learning styles within each class and teaching is adapted to each child's needs. In the delivery of RE we try to ensure that each child achieves his/her full potential regardless of race, cultural background, gender or physical abilities. All children's experiences are valued regardless of their faith background. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of the Religious Education provided. The Headteacher must be informed if parents wish to exercise this right.

How we assess RE.

Each RE lesson begins with a formative assessment opportunity through a planned flashback multiple choice questions, which focus on recall of key prior learning. Teachers use ongoing formative assessment of children's learning through questioning, discussion and live marking.

They use high quality interactions to extend learning and give children the opportunity to discuss their understanding during the lessons. Children are given immediate feedback and challenge during lesson time to extend their learning.

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During each unit, a mixed ability group of children are selected as representative to assess the progress and understanding through evaluating narrative responses to a key question.

Teachers record children's comments and thoughts in lessons, using these to enable judgements of the children's understanding. This evidence is found in the RE learning journey within every classroom. RE is also included in the end of year report for each child in every year group.

How is the teaching and learning of RE monitored?

The RE Co-ordinator, with support from Fioretti Trust Head of Ethos, monitors and evaluates the teaching of Religious Education so that the effective implementation of the Religious Education Policy is ensured. This is achieved by using a "Pupil Book Study" approach to guide discussions with children, scrutiny of planning, scrutiny of work, resource review, discussions with staff and learning walks.

Governors complete visits to evaluate the impact of teaching of RE. The RE Co-ordinator also completes regular training and participates in Diocesan conferences. The diocesan Church School Distinctiveness Advisor also supports the work of the RE co-ordinator.

What is the impact of RE at St Laurence?

Children at St Laurence have the opportunity to reflect on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and the relevance of this in relation to their own attitudes to life and their relationships with others. They have the chance to explore their own spirituality. By the end of Key Stage One, children have respect for people of all faiths and beliefs. They understand why people believe and follow the practices of religious traditions.

We hope that both children and their parents and carers will appreciate and feel enriched by the strong links with St Laurence Parish Church.

The RE curriculum lays the foundation of knowledge, skills, vocabulary and understanding to be able to progress to Key Stage Two. Throughout their time at St Laurence Church Infant school, our RE curriculum ensures all children are able to **Feel** part of a **Community**, **Be Creative**, **Develop Curiosity**, **Communicate** confidently and **Care** for ourselves, others and our world so that they can have a "love of learning, life and each other" in order to flourish throughout their lives.

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