

# St Laurence Church Infant School

## Religious Education Policy



Approved by: Curriculum, Safeguarding and  
Pupil Welfare Committee

Last revised on: May 2023

Next review due by: May 2026

*Everyone to learn and grow with God*

## St Laurence Church Infant School

### Religious Education Policy

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.

### Intent

#### Why do we teach RE?

Our primary purpose is to teach our children about religious faiths to enable them to understand and explore what they and others believe and why.

At St Laurence Infant School 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:



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 childrens 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

### 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

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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 and other religions and life experiences, for example, through prayer, worship, drama and art. 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. There are educational visits to support the RE curriculum which have previously included visits to St Laurence Church, a mosque, St John's and St Peter's Parish Church, and a synagogue. Evidence of the children's work is recorded in each classes RE Learning Journey which records evidence of all 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, Incarnation and Gospel are used from 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 Christian perspective.

### **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 differentiated to allow for a wide range of abilities and learning styles within each class. 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.**

Teachers assess how children learn through observing them working in lessons. They use questioning skills 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. 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 monitors and evaluates the teaching of Religious Education so that the effective implementation of the Religious Education Policy is ensured. This is achieved by discussions with children, scrutiny of planning, lesson observations, scrutiny of work, resource review, discussions with staff and learning walks. The RE Co-ordinator also completes regular training and participates in Diocesan conferences. It is also monitored by a regular feedback to the governors and through a regular interaction between a governor and the RE coordinator.

## What is the impact of RE at St Laurence?

Children at St Laurence will 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 will have had the chance to explore their own spirituality. They will leave our school with respect for people of all faiths and beliefs. They will have understood 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 skills, knowledge and vocabulary gained throughout their time being taught the RE Curriculum at St Laurence Church Infant school, 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.

## Review

This Policy will be reviewed within the next 3 years or before if there are changes to the RE curriculum.

Date of policy May 2023

Date Of review May 2026

RE Co-ordinator Martin Sherlaw