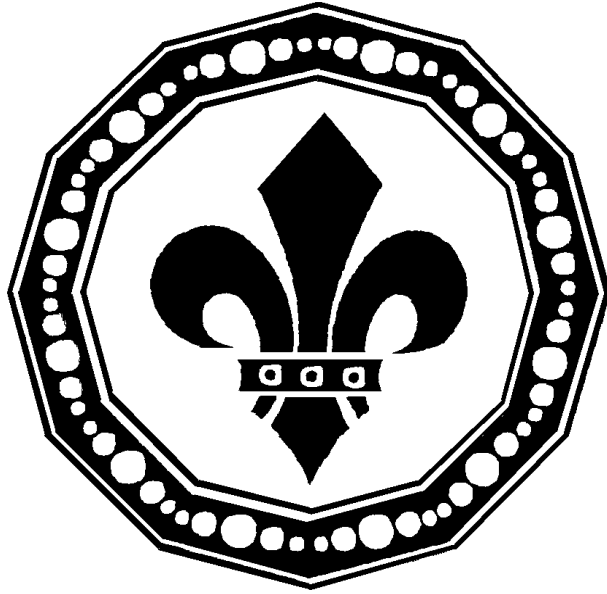


*"Flourish for the future"*



**ST. MARY'S  
CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
PRIMARY SCHOOL, WELHAM GREEN**

**Religious Education Policy**

Date: **March 2025**

Review: **March 2026**

Headteacher – Mr. A. D. Petty

Chair of Governors – Mr. C. Diver

***We are a welcoming Christian community where every child has the chance to flourish. We bring and share joy, inspire daily and creatively equip children for the future. We're thankful for all that God has provide; proud of where He has placed us; and excited about the potential to come.***

All the policies of St Mary's C of E Primary School reflect the Christian vision, aims and values of the school.

We have considered the impact this policy may have on our children with SEND.

This policy has been equality impact assessed to ensure that it does not have an adverse effect on race, gender, age or disability.

Our school aims to ensure that all personal data collected about staff, pupils, parents, governors, visitors and other individuals is collected, stored and processed in accordance with the [General Data Protection Regulation \(GDPR\)](#) and the relevant provisions of the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA 2018).

This policy applies to all personal data, regardless of whether it is in paper or electronic format.

## The Nature of Religious Education (RE)

St. Mary's is a Church of England Voluntary Aided School in the Diocese of St. Albans and Religious Education occupies a special place in our school. The school is closely linked to St Mary's Church, North Mymms.

As this is a Voluntary Aided Primary School, the RE curriculum is required by law to be determined by the governors in accordance with the Trust Deed. This states that Religious instruction should be given in accordance with the doctrines, rites and practices of the Church of England. This forms the basis for determining RE in our school.

Many families who send their children to St Mary's School choose the school because they value a church school education. At present we have children from practising Christian families, as well as children from religions other than Christianity and some from non-religious backgrounds. As a church school we seek to ensure that the ethos and principles of Christianity underpin the experiences of the children in our care.

Christian beliefs are lived through the twelve values of respect, love, perseverance, forgiveness, creativity, loyalty, hope, peace, courage, trust, responsibility, friendship. These will be reflected in the everyday life of the school through the feasts, festivals, rites, practices and teachings of the Church of England. We believe at this school that RE both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Our caring ethos and the value which we place on the development of the whole child (spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually) is reflected in the RE curriculum.

RE is concerned with "learning about religions" and "learning from religions". It is not the practice of this school to preach or to convert the children. The faith, backgrounds of both the staff and the children's families are respected at **all** times. The rights of parents to withdraw their children from the teaching of RE is stated in the 1998 Education Reform Act. Any parent who wishes to withdraw their child should make their wishes known to the Headteacher. In addition, teachers may withdraw from the teaching of RE.

We use Understanding Christianity and the Herts Agreed Syllabus as the foundation for our RE planning which provides us with a sound basis for the teaching of Religious Education within our Voluntary Aided framework. In addition to this, we draw on the guidance from the Diocesan Education department which embodies themes and issues that are of relevance to a church school.

## **Overview**

We believe that all pupils should have the opportunity to develop spiritually, morally, socially and culturally through the learning of Religious Education. We believe that children should have the opportunity to learn about the teachings of Christ and other religions.

## **Values and Aims**

The principal aim of Religious Education is to help the children achieve a knowledge and understanding of religious experiences, insights, beliefs and practices. This will enable them to deepen and realise their own beliefs and respect the freedom of others to hold beliefs that differ from their own.

Through the teaching of RE we will help all children to:-

- Understand the values, attitudes and lifestyles that a Christian faith demands
- Learn about the origins, content and development of the Christian religion
- Develop a positive attitude to other people, respecting the beliefs and values of those from faiths other than their own
- Become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals
- Develop secure, open relationships
- Explore the language and ideas of religion
- Express their thoughts and feelings about religion

## **Teaching and Learning**

- RE will be taught weekly using the year group curriculum and through class topics or assembly themes
- Christianity will be the main religion studies and will be covered in all year groups
- Other religions will be studied as appropriate through topics and themes
  
- Children will be involved in a range of activities that enable them to draw on personal experiences
- Activities will include stories, discussions, visits to places of worship, visitors, artefacts, drama and art
- Regular occasions will be provided for discussion e.g. assembly, circle time

## **Assessment**

- Children's knowledge and understanding will be assessed with reference to the School RE Curriculum
- Observation of children during discussions
- Children's work in RE Books
- Summary of achievement in yearly reports to parents

### **Inclusion / Special Needs**

- All children will be encouraged to express their feelings and opinions
- Specific and supportive questioning will be used with those who struggle to express themselves clearly
- Those who can express themselves confidently will be challenged to reason their views and respond to the views of others.

### **Cross-Curricular Links**

RE teaching and learning will be the means to many wider cross curricular themes and dimensions. There are clearly very special opportunities to explore multi-cultural and equal opportunities issues and a consideration of environmental issues. Moral questions will be raised and pupils will develop a sense of citizenship through many aspects of the RE curriculum. Children's skills in speaking and listening will be enhanced. Problem solving, decision making and interpersonal and intrapersonal skills will be developed. Links will be made with people in the local community.