



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

St Bartholomew's Primary School

Date agreed by Governing Board	December 2024
Signature of Chair of Governors	<i>Bettina Carlyon</i>
Date to be reviewed by Governing Board	December 2026

This version supersedes all previous versions of this policy.

RATIONALE

The purpose of this policy is to outline the contribution that Religious Education (RE) makes in strengthening and supporting the Christian distinctiveness of our school.

It sets out the aims, principles and strategies used in the teaching and learning of RE at St Bartholomew's Primary School and has been developed being mindful of our school's aim to provide an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. As a Church of England Primary School, the RE provided is central to the life of our school. As such, RE is given the priority that it deserves as a core subject in the curriculum and aims to be an outstanding specialism of St Bartholomew's School. It is intended that the RE provided is of the highest quality, aiming for excellence in teaching and learning.
2. St Bartholomew's central aims of Religious Education (as detailed in the Southwark Diocesan policy statement "*Religious Education in our Church Of England Schools - June 2016*") are to enable children to:

- a) Develop 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 and its meaning;
- b) Develop knowledge and understanding of the beliefs and practices of some of the other principal religions in Britain;

- c) Understand how belief may impact on culture, relationships, values and lifestyle;
- d) Understand how belief can be expressed in a variety of ways including art, dance, music, ritual celebration and in different cultural settings;
- e) Develop spiritually, morally, culturally and socially by helping them to reflect upon personal feelings, responses and relationships;
- f) Explore ways in which religious values and teaching have an impact on actions and decisions for people of faith;
- g) Be supported in their own search for meaning and purpose in life;
- h) Develop a sense of awe, wonder and mystery;
- i) Explore concepts of love, forgiveness and sacrifice;
- j) Develop skills of reflection, empathy, communication, analysis, investigation, interpretation, evaluation and synthesis;
- k) Develop attitudes of respect, sensitivity, open-mindedness and self-esteem and
- l) Be given the opportunity for quiet reflection and prayer across the day which includes writing their own personal prayers.

I.1 LEGAL FRAMEWORK

4. As a voluntary-aided Church of England school, the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education (SDBE) Agreed Syllabus for RE is our statutory document for the teaching of RE.
5. Parents have a legal right to withdraw their children from RE lessons, but as RE is central to the life and identity of St Bartholomew's CE Primary School, we would ask parents to discuss with the head teacher any reasons they

might have for doing this when they apply to join our school.

TEACHING AND LEARNING SCHEME OF WORK

6. The scheme of work for RE will maintain a balance between the two attainment targets: Learning about Religions and Learning from Religions as outlined below:
 - a) There will be clear learning outcomes for all units of work, based on the appropriate expectations/levels as set out in the RE syllabus.
 - b) The scheme of work will ensure that there is continuity and progression for pupils and opportunities for assessment in both attainment targets.
 - c) A range of teaching and learning activities will ensure that pupils learn effectively and with interest.
 - d) Pupil progress and attainment in RE will be tracked and recorded termly and St Bartholomew's School will keep an up to date portfolio of evidence to support assessment data.
 - e) Progress in RE will form part of pupils' annual report to parents.
 - f) RE will be taught as a discrete subject and on occasions as part of a cross-curricular approach where appropriate.
 - g) A range of visitors will be invited to support the teaching of RE, and where possible, there will be visits to places of worship.
 - h) RE is timetabled for at least 1 hour per week across St Bartholomew's School.
 - i) We are a LifeSavers school, underpinning financial education through gospel values.

7. See also Appendix I for the current Curriculum Map relating to RE.

COMMUNITY

8. St Bartholomew's School has close links with the Parish Church of St Bartholomew's and its clergy visit St Bartholomew's School to support RE and collective worship on a regular basis. In addition, we encourage every class to visit St Bartholomew's Church and explore an aspect of worship at different points across the year.
9. School Eucharist is held in St Bartholomew's School at least once a term. Other services are held in St Bartholomew's Church for the whole school, such as Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Leavers' Services. Year 6 also visit Southwark Cathedral for the Diocesan Leavers' Service and enjoy the sense of the Diocesan family. Parents are invited to all of these services.
10. There are opportunities for other members of the community to contribute to RE and worship, for example, we work with Spinnaker trust and often invite other local clergy to visit.
11. St Bartholomew's School also ensures that children are given the opportunity to visit other churches in the parish and places of worship for other faiths in and around London.
12. Harvest and Lent appeals are led by our School Council representatives and we support charities both in our local community and further afield, thereby furthering our community links both in our borough and the wider world.

BRITISH VALUES

13. At St Bartholomew's we ensure that the fundamental British Values are introduced, discussed and lived out through the ethos and work of St Bartholomew's School.
14. RE lessons provide excellent opportunities to deepen and develop understanding of these concepts and children embrace them with enthusiasm, demonstrating a good understanding of their application to their own lives.

SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

15. St Bartholomew's is passionate about helping each child to fulfil their potential in all aspects: spiritually, morally, socially, academically, culturally and physically.
16. RE makes a strong contribution to enhancing each child's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, helping them to build a sense of their own identity in an ever-changing society.

SUBJECT LEADERSHIP

17. The RE subject leader's role and responsibilities are as follows:

- a) To support and monitor the subject across the school.
- b) To ensure that his/her subject knowledge and expertise are kept up to date by means of regular training.
- c) Supported by the Leaders of Learning group and the Headteacher, to ensure that staff receive adequate training in the teaching and assessment of RE.
- d) To monitor the quality of RE teaching across St Bartholomew's School.

- e) To liaise with the Governor holding responsibility for RE and report regularly to the Governing Board on progress and attainment in RE.
- f) Together with the Headteacher, to ensure that the principles set out in the National Society's Statement of Entitlement for RE are implemented.

MONITORING AND REVIEW OF THIS POLICY

18. This policy will be reviewed in December 2026.
19. Its effectiveness will be monitored by the RE Co-ordinator and will be based upon discussions with other members of staff, observation of children's work and re-evaluation of teaching plans. The outcome of the review will influence the future School Development Plan.