



## **Studley St Mary's C of E Academy**

### **Religious Education Policy – December 2025**

#### **Introduction**

This policy outlines the purpose, nature and management of Religious Education in our school. It outlines procedures that have been agreed by all of our staff in order for us to achieve the school vision:

Walking alongside to live life in all its fullness.

'Let us run the race that is before us, and never give up.' Hebrews 12:1

At Studley St Mary's, we want our RE curriculum to allow all to know more, and remember more, so that we can better walk alongside each other as we run the race that is before us.

We aim to do this by challenging and supporting all of our pupils so that they can achieve what they are capable of. All individuals are valued, irrespective of ability, race, gender, culture or faith.

We aim to provide effective teaching and stimulating learning experiences across a broad and balanced curriculum, within a happy, caring, inclusive and safe environment.

We aim to enable each child to develop the personal and social skills necessary for them to become independent, responsible, active participants in their community through partnerships with home, our parish churches, local neighbourhoods and the wider community.

This policy reflects the consensus of opinion of the whole teaching staff. It has been drawn up as a result of staff discussion, contribution and involvement of local clergy and has the full agreement of the governing body.

The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of the staff with the support of the R.E. Subject leader.

#### **Our Context**

Most children arrive at Studley St Mary's having attended a non-faith Infant School. A number of the families are not church attenders and have had limited exposure to the Christian story or other Worldviews. Our curriculum is designed to introduce the key concepts of Christianity in manageable pieces of learning, alongside faith and non-faith worldviews.

As our children grow and expand their horizons beyond Studley, they will encounter more people of different world views than their own. For many, this will be the first time they experience this, so our aim at Studley is to better equip them to be able to walk alongside all

members of the wider British society. The aim of using both Understanding Christianity and the new Religion and Worldviews Syllabus is to enable the children to better walk alongside those who hold different worldviews to their own.

### **Our Christian Distinctiveness**

At the heart of our Church of England School, is our desire to enable all children and adults to flourish. By the time children leave us, we want them to have a meaningful understanding of the Christian story of salvation, to be able to reflect on this for themselves and form their own personal worldview.

### **Our Curriculum**

RE is part of our core curriculum, sitting alongside maths, writing, reading and science. Each child will receive a minimum of one and a half hours of RE each week. We do not include our daily Collective Worship, our 'Experience Church', or other faith centre visits as part of the RE entitlement. We see these as enrichment opportunities, allowing children the space and time to wonder, and to inform their own understanding of the Christian message as it is shaped and compared to those of other faiths.

Class teachers deliver RE lessons; HLTAs and Supply teachers are not used in the main, so our children have the maximum opportunity to have RE delivered by trained, experienced and reflective practitioners.

### **The Detail**

Studley uses units from Understanding Christianity and the Warwickshire Agreed Syllabus to deliver its own bespoke curriculum. The units are delivered in a set order, using a rolling 2 year sequence for the mixed year cohort of 3 /4, and a yearly sequence for years 5 and 6. The curriculum has been mapped to avoid duplication within the 2 schemes ( one dating from 2004 and one from 2024) and to allow the children have the opportunity to acquire a good spread of Bible knowledge from both the Old and New Testaments.

### **Enrichment Opportunities**

Studley St Marys has a formal RE Visit Plan, which ensures a child who joins the school in year 3 will engage each year in an 'Experience' at St Mary's Parish Church developed and run by our Link Worker and members of St Mary's Church. These experiences are workshops held in the church, covering topics such as Harvest, the Eucharist, Easter, Advent, Church itself and the Salvation Story.

In addition, each year group has an annual visit to another faith centre, so by the time a child leaves in year 6, they will have also visited a Mosque, a Gurdwara, a synagogue, a Temple, and a Buddhist Retreat Centre.

Children will also experience visits and workshops run by the Humanist Society, so they are also able to consider the world from a non-theist's perspective.

Time for formal reflection is built into every RE lessons. In addition, starting in 2026/2027 children will each have a Reflection Diary, with key reflection questions mapped out to develop a spiritual journey during their time at Studley. Time will be set aside each week for the diary to be completed, usually following CW or PSHE in the mornings, or after RE lessons.

### **Progress/ Assessment – Under Development**

RE knowledge and skills are assessed by Teachers on a termly basis, using the Insight Tracking system. Key knowledge criteria are mapped and inputted to the system, allowing teachers to track progress. The aim of the assessment system is to enable teachers to see where gaps exist when the children move year groups and adapt the curriculum for the following year to address these gaps in knowledge.

Children with additional needs are assessed using the same criteria ; they are taught alongside the rest of their cohort whenever possible with activities adapted using a highly visual basis ( widgets) and staff are encouraged to use RE to delivery lessons on a more sensory basis, with carefully selected tasks which allow access to all.

### **Training and Development**

The RE Training Plan is reviewed annually. All new starters receive a bespoke introduction from the RE Lead and then access the specialist training delivered by Understanding Christianity, if they have not used the resource before. ECTs attend the MAT ECT RE training and complete the specialist Culham St Gabriels online training on Religion and Worldviews and 3 subject knowledge courses. CPD for staff takes place every half term, led by the RE Lead, covering key developments on the Religion and Worldviews Syllabus, as well as supporting planning for new units of work for either resources.

**Date of policy:** December 2025

**Renewal date:** December 2028