Castlethorpe First School – Newton Blossomville CE School – North Crawley CE School
Sherington CE School – Stoke Goldington CE School

The Village Schools Federation aspires to nurture and inspire every child to experience life in all its fullness. Our schools are rooted in inclusive Christian values to enable all to flourish by building knowledge, confidence and resilience for the future. We strive to be the best we can be.
"Whatever we do, we work at it with all our heart"
Colossians 3:23

Policy for Religious Education (RE)

Introduction

In our schools, RE plays an important role in supporting the Christian ethos of the Church of England schools and non-Church of England school within the Village Schools Federation. RE reflects the vision and values of the Village Schools Federation and promotes understanding of people of all religions and world views. RE has the same high status as any other subject and contributes to the overall development of our pupils from all back grounds and traditions.

Purpose

RE plays a central role in a broad and balanced curriculum that will enable children to participate fully in a multi-religious and multi-secular world. It aims to enable children to hold informed and balanced conversations about worldviews, religion and beliefs. It provides a safe environment where pupils can explore their own ideas and learn to evaluate the opinions of others. This is religious literacy.

Aims and Intention

Therefore, the aims of RE in our schools are:

- To enable pupils to know about and understand Christianity as a living faith that influences the lives of people worldwide and as the religion which has most shaped British culture and heritage.
- To enable pupils to know about and understand world religions and world views and their influence on society, culture and the wider world.
- To focus on the similarities and links between faiths, beliefs and values.
- To enable pupils to consider and express their own ideas and insights.
- To contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils and their own spiritual and philosophical convictions.
- To develop a positive attitude towards other people, respecting their right to hold different beliefs from their own and towards living in a multi-religious and multi-secular world.

Implementation

The RE curriculum across The Village Schools Federation follows the Milton Keynes Locally Agreed Syllabuses for RE and uses, where possible the Oxford Diocese Scheme of work. Christianity is taught in every year group, with key concepts revisited. Approximately two-thirds of the time is devoted to Christianity. Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism and the Buddhist religion are covered according to the syllabus with similarities and links the focus. The VSF curriculum looks to teach and make links with world religions through the English curriculum for example in learning the story of Rama and Sita and how is this remembered at the festival of Diwali. Learning, rehearsing and exploring are regularly planned in to continuous provision.

The total time for RE is between 5% and 10%, and it is taught in dedicated lessons and continuous provision. The time dedicated to RE is separate from the time given to Collective Worship. In KS1 this will amount to approximately 36 hours per year.

RE is taught using an enquiry-based approach that is challenging and robust. Learning will be organised to encourage the development of attitudes such as self-awareness, respect for all, open-mindedness, appreciation and wonder, as well as providing opportunities to engage appropriately with British Values. All faiths and world views are treated respectfully, and opportunities will be made to engage in age-appropriate, meaningful discussion. Where possible pupils will encounter believers and visit places of worship.

A variety of resources, styles, and techniques will be used as appropriate to enable all children to make progress in RE regardless of their starting points, ability or background. The Village Schools Federation ensure all staff are aware of important documents including SEND Policy, Equality Information and Objectives Policy and are sign posted to the Valuing All God's Children document.

Assessment procedures will follow those of the Agreed Syllabus and be in accordance with other assessment and feedback procedures in the school. Children will engage in a variety of activities which will also enable teachers to assess what they have learned. Records kept will include information about pupils' experiences, achievements and progress in children's RE books and floor books. Regular feedback is shared with the VSF RE lead.

Impact measures

Pupils may be withdrawn from RE or part of RE by a parent or guardian in accordance with Schedule 19 to the School Standards and Framework Act 1998; teachers can exercise their right to withdraw from teaching the subject. However, we hope that all parents and teachers will feel comfortable with the type of religious education being taught in our schools. Parents who wish to withdraw their child must provide written notification to this effect and provide suitable activities for their child. The schools will keep pupils safe and work with parents to provide resources and suitable activities during this time. We use an enquiry and investigative approach, as recommended by the Diocesan Scheme of Work, Understanding Christianity and the Discovery RE Scheme of Work.

Roles and responsibilities

Every maintained school in England must provide a basic curriculum (RE, PSHRE and the National Curriculum). This includes provision for RE for all registered pupils at the school, except for those withdrawn by their parents. As maintained and voluntary controlled schools, RE is taught in

accordance with the Locally Agreed Syllabus *(Milton Keynes Agreed Syllabus 2025)* while also reflecting the requirements of the Statement of Entitlement for Religious Education 2026 (this applies to the Church of England Schools only).

Resources

The RE subject leader will ensure that RE resources are kept up-to-date and that staff are informed when new resources are purchased or made available electronically. Resources will include source materials (Bibles, visitors, artefacts) where appropriate and be treated with respect by all staff.

Homework/parent partnership

The RE subject lead will inform parents of any local events that promote understanding of people and practices of all religions and world views, for example religious building open days and children's activity days. All VSF schools will hold regular events in their local churches at harvest, Christmas, Easter and Leavers Services which parents and clergy are warmly invited.

Monitoring and review

The RE subject lead and SLT will monitor teaching and learning in RE in accordance with this policy. The RE subject leader will observe teaching, conduct book and planning reviews and pupil interviews when appropriate to assess the effectiveness of teaching and learning. The Executive Head teacher and governors will ensure that effective monitoring takes place to ensure our schools go beyond the statutory requirements for RE, and deliver high quality, challenging lessons.

Monitoring will be completed by senior leaders and governors to ensure a consistent whole federation approach.

The governing body of The Village School Federation will review this policy every two years. The governors may, however, review this policy earlier in the light of new regulations or recommendations.

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the following documents:

Teaching, Learning and Assessment Policy

SEND Policy

Reviewed: September 2026

Next Review: September 2028