

**We can all flourish and 'have life and have it to the full', as we travel together with God on our voyage of discovery and opportunity.
We foster a caring environment, promoting consideration and appreciation for others, 'letting all that we do be done in love'.
Through shared aspirations we strive 'to give hope and a future', inspiring all to be the best that they can be.**



Tydd St Mary Church of England School **RE Policy 2023 - 2025**

This policy has been adopted by the Governing Body in consultation with the RE subject leader and teaching staff. It was approved September 2023 and will be reviewed September 2025. This policy should be read in conjunction with other policies in school including: Spirituality, Collective Worship, PSHE, Teaching and Learning, Assessment, Marking and Feedback and other curriculum policies.

The Context

In our school we seek to empower all to fulfil their potential and flourish as agents of positive change in the world. Our curriculum provides pupils with the knowledge, understanding and skills they need to fulfil their potential. Through addressing key questions, engaging in critical thinking and seeking wisdom, our curriculum supports pupils to flourish as agents of positive change. The RE curriculum at Tydd St Mary Church of England Primary School realises this vision by focusing on substantive, disciplinary and personal knowledge that unlocks pupils' worldview literacy and empowers them to engage with the lived reality of religious and non-religious worldviews with wisdom, self-awareness and critical analysis.

Tydd St Mary Church of England School is a small rural school for children in the age range 4 to 11. We work to the Lincolnshire Locally Agreed Syllabus for RE. As a Church of England school, we recognise the core place that RE occupies as part of a broad and balanced curriculum. We also understand the contribution of effective RE to our journey towards realising our school's distinctively Christian vision. We recognise the variety of religious and non-religious backgrounds that make up our school community and we respect this variety of backgrounds in the spirit of Christian welcome. We are glad to have good relationships with faith and belief practitioners from a range of religious and non-religious worldviews, and we value their contribution to our provision of effective RE.

We actively seek to prepare our pupils for life in modern Britain. As such, we promote key British values, including respect for and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We challenge racism and all forms of prejudice, and we see RE as one curriculum area in which our pupils can encounter and critically reflect on a range of worldviews.

The Purpose of RE at Tydd St Mary Church of England School

We teach RE as a core part of our school curriculum to help our pupils develop their religion and worldview literacy. We understand this to be our pupils' ability to hold balanced and well-informed conversations about religion and belief.

The Aims of RE at Tydd St Mary Church of England School

RE at Tydd St Mary Church of England School will be provided within legal requirements. These are as follows:

1. The Basic Curriculum must include provision for RE for all pupils registered on the school roll, including those in Reception class who are less than five years old.
2. The content of RE must reflect the fact that the religious traditions of Great Britain are, in the main, Christian; it must also reflect the teaching and practices of the other principal religious traditions represented in Great Britain
3. The RE curriculum provided will be in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus for Lincolnshire

We deliver RE in accordance with the Church of England Education Office's [*Statement of Entitlement*](#).

Within this framework our aims in RE are for pupils to:

- Acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and a range of world faiths and worldviews;
- Develop an understanding of the ways in which religious and non-religious beliefs, teachings, practices, values and traditions influence individuals, communities, societies and cultures, from the local to the global contexts;
- Develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues, with reference to the beliefs, teachings, practices, sources of authority and ways of living associated with the principle religions represented in the UK;
- Develop positive attitudes of mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs;
- Enhance their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development by:
 - Considering the 'big questions' raised by human experience and reflecting on how religious and other traditions respond to them;
 - Responding to such questions with reference to religious and non-religious beliefs, teachings, practices, values and traditions, relating them to their own understanding and experience;
 - Reflecting on their own beliefs, values and experiences in light of their study of religious and non-religious worldviews.

Time Allocation

It is the expectation of the Church of England Education Office that RE should constitute a minimum of 5% curriculum time. This is in line with the recommendations made by the Dearing Report (1994). We meet this expectation by providing the minimum time of 36 hours per year for KS1 and 45 hours per year for KS2. This time is arranged during our specialist teaching day. Classes are seen on a two-week rotation for 1 hour 15 mins each session. In KS2 there are additional weekly lessons to meet the time allocation. All classes then receive additional RE days to build up their allocated time in KS1/EYFS when required as part of our planning.

♥ Respect ♥ Friendship ♥ Honesty ♥ Perseverance ♥ Responsibility ♥ Thankfulness

RE forms part of the planning at EYFS; although there is no expected time allocation at this level, we expect that there will be connections made between RE and the Early Years areas of learning.

RE curriculum time does not include values lessons, collective worship or assembly.

RE Curriculum Design

Our RE curriculum is based on the Lincolnshire locally agreed syllabus, supported by Understanding Christianity. RE will be based around termly themes. At KS1, the principal religions studied will be Christianity and Islam; at KS2, the principal religions studied will be Christianity, Islam and Hinduism. It is not expected that pupils will study all six major world religions in depth during their time at Tydd St Mary Church of England School, although they will have learning opportunities that allow them to encounter all these faiths. It is expected that pupils will also engage with non-religious worldviews, such as Humanism, as part of the RE curriculum. All units are planned to reflect the disciplines that underpin RE: theology ('believing'), the human/social sciences ('living') and philosophy ('thinking'). As outlined by Ofsted and the Church of England Entitlement; we seek to develop both substantive and disciplinary knowledge.

We carry out curriculum planning for RE in three phases (long-term, medium-term, and short-term). The long-term plan maps the RE topics studied throughout the school; the medium-term plan gives details of each unit of study delivered to each Key Stage. As we have mixed-age classes, we carry out the medium-term planning on a two-year cycle. The RE teacher annotates the medium-term plans to contain information about each lesson. These are discussed on an informal basis with the RE Subject Leader/Head teacher and form part of the annual monitoring process for RE teaching and learning.

Curriculum Implementation

We ensure that teaching and learning in RE meets the needs of all pupils; the implementation of the curriculum focuses on ensuring all pupils develop the expected substantive, disciplinary and personal knowledge in RE. The impact of this is monitored through regular formative and summative assessment processes. We identify RE as one of the core subjects through which our pupils can develop spiritually, morally, socially, and culturally, but we do not limit the delivery of SMSC to this subject alone. We provide an annual report on each child's progress in RE. This report will be based on regular monitoring of work in RE using a variety of methods, including verbal feedback, group work, class bible, debates/discussions, and written work.

Resources

Tydd St Mary Church of England School has invested in a wide range of appropriate books, artefacts, audio and visual resources, posters, persona dolls, etc., and the RE Subject Leader audits these resources annually. We take advice from the Diocesan RE Adviser and other RE professionals on the best resources to support the delivery of an effective RE curriculum.

Our planning is available on the school website and work is shared when pupils take home some work to enable parents to support their child's learning in RE.

Visits and Visitors

We consider that an essential element of the delivery of effective RE is encounter with a range of religious and non-religious worldviews. We encourage our pupils to participate in visits to places of worship when the opportunity arises; these visits are arranged in line with the programme of study for RE and provide pupils with the chance to encounter world religions as living faiths in

modern Britain. We also encourage members of different religious and non-religious worldviews to visit Tydd St Mary Church of England School. These visits are arranged in accordance with the school's trips policy.

Supporting All Learners

Whole school policy with regards to SEND and adaptive teaching applies to RE. Teachers ensure that the learning activities employed in RE are adapted to meet a variety of learning needs. RE forms part of our commitment to provide a broad and balanced education to all children. Through our RE teaching, we provide learning opportunities that enable all pupils to make good progress. We strive to meet the needs of all pupils and we take all reasonable steps to achieve this. For further details, see separate school policies.

Inspection

The effectiveness of the RE curriculum is inspected as part of the Section 48 SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspection. Tydd St Mary Church of England School is a VA school. As such, progress and attainment in RE is inspected as a distinct element of the Section 48 SIAMS inspection. It is the responsibility of the RE Subject Leader to review and maintain evidence for the RE elements of this inspection, with appropriate support from the head teacher, governors and Diocesan RE Adviser.

Monitoring and Review

We intend that this policy should operate for the next 2 years, and then be fully reviewed by staff and governors. The RE Subject Leader will monitor the delivery of RE during each academic year to ensure that this policy is being appropriately implemented. Their role is to support and hold accountable all members of staff involved in the delivery of RE. To this end, they will ask each member of staff involved in the delivery of RE to provide a copy of their medium-term planning for RE, along with some examples of evidence of pupil progress in RE during each academic year (The Class Bible).

The RE Subject Leader and Headteacher evaluate their leadership of the subject during each academic year. Using a self-evaluation tool, the RE Subject Leader works with their line manager to ensure that leadership of RE remains a high priority and is of a high quality.

Withdrawal from RE

We acknowledge the right of parents/guardians to withdraw their children from RE lessons and of teachers to withdraw from teaching the subject. We acknowledge that parents/guardians/teachers do not need to provide a reason why they wish to withdraw from the subject. Should a parent/guardian wish to withdraw their child from RE lessons or a teacher wish to refuse to teach RE, we require that written notice be sent to the RE Subject Leader/head teacher/school governors.

Should a parent/guardian request that their child be withdrawn from RE, we will endeavour to communicate clearly the place of RE within a broad and balanced curriculum to ensure that they are in possession of all the necessary information before confirming their decision. However, we will not attempt to persuade them to alter their decision. If a pupil is withdrawn from RE lessons, the school is required to provide supervision, *but should not incur any additional cost in so doing.*

Any queries regarding withdrawal from RE should be directed to the RE Subject Leader in the first instance, and thereafter to the head teacher.