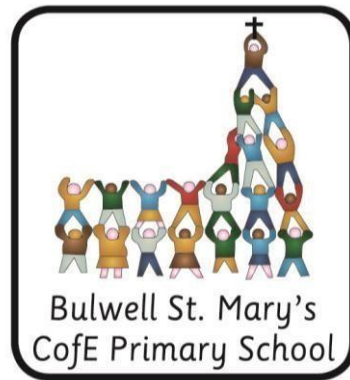
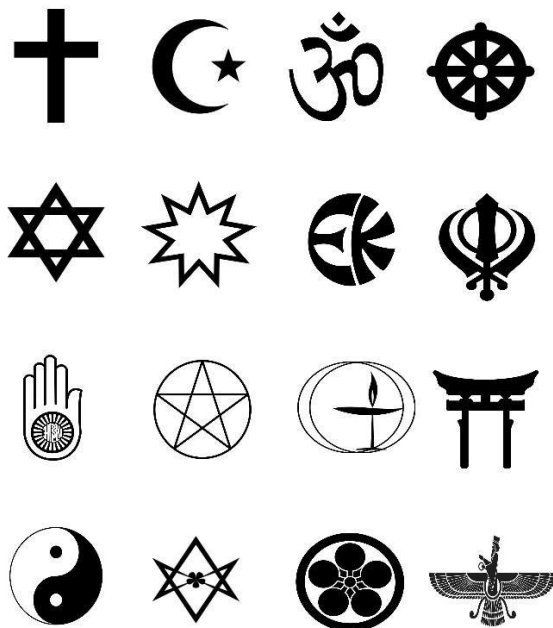




Where your journey begins...

Bulwell St Mary's Church of England Primary School



Religious Education Policy

September 2025

Vision

Creating & inspiring a community where everyone recognises their self-worth as a unique child of God. Here we aim to develop a love of learning that enthuses and ignites hope for the future.

As the Angel Gabriel said to St. Mary:

"Nothing is impossible with God." Luke 1: 37

Mission

To ensure every child flourishes and can explore life in all its fullness.

'I came to give life - life in all its fullness'
John 10:10

Values

We are proud to be a Take Care school where we live out our school values through the four main aspects of Take Care.

Bulwell St. Mary's is a proud Church of England school that develops Christian values and morals. We focus on 6 key values: Respect, Friendship, Courage, Honesty, Forgiveness and Creativity.



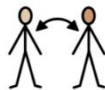
Take Care of Ourselves

Honour God with your body.
1 Corinthians 6:20



Take Care of Each Other

Love your neighbour as yourself.
Matthew 22:39



Take Care of Our Work

Let your good deeds shine out for all to see.
Matthew 5:16



Take Care of our School and World

God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.
Genesis 2:15



Respect

Do to others as you would like them to do to you.
Luke 6:31



Honesty

Let us tell our neighbours the truth, for we are all parts of the same body.
Ephesians 4:25



Friendship

Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.
1 John 4:11



Forgiveness

If you forgive others their sins your heavenly Father will also forgive you.
Matthew 6:14



Courage

Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid.
Joshua 1:9



Creativity

We have different gifts according to the grace given to each of us.
Romans 12:6



This allows our children to grow as individuals and interact positively with each other in all situations they encounter. The values are a way of life rather than a set of rules to be followed which allows our children to become respectful, thoughtful, content and happy. Prayer and worship are an important part of our daily school life. Through getting to know Jesus our children learn the importance of love and respect for all, and how these values are reflected in their own behaviour and attitudes.

Our school motto is **'Where Your Journey Begins'**. We look forward to supporting you and your children along that journey.

Bulwell St Mary's CofE Primary School

Introduction

At Bulwell St Mary's C of E Primary School, in accordance with the 1988 Education Reform Act, we provide Religious Education for all the children in our school. Religious Education is unique in the school curriculum in that it is neither a core subject nor a foundation subject but the 1988 Education Act states that 'Religious Education has equal standing in relation to core subjects of the National Curriculum in that it is compulsory for all registered pupils'.

The Governors in consultation with the Head teacher have decided, following advice from the diocese, to adopt the Locally Agreed Syllabus and supplement this with material from the Diocese, Understanding Christianity and elsewhere.

We are a multicultural/multi-faith school that values and respects all people equally within our school community. We therefore aim to foster an understanding of the diversity of religious belief in Bulwell and beyond, drawing parallels between Christian's values and those of other faiths or none.

We strive to educate the children in a Christian environment which embodies Christian values. We have defined these as:

- **Honesty**
- **Friendship**
- **Respect**
- **Courage**
- **Creativity**
- **Forgiveness**

These values are taught throughout our curriculum and collective worship. They are at the heart of everything we do, and enable the children to fulfil their potential and have an understanding of Christian values and morals in their lives.

Aims of Religious Education at Bulwell St Mary's C of E Primary School

In accordance with the Locally Agreed Syllabus – our aims in teaching Religious Education are:

- To enable pupils to encounter Christianity as the religion that shaped British culture and heritage and influences the lives of millions of people today.
- To enable pupils to learn about the other major religions, their impact on culture and politics, art and history, and on the lives of their adherents.
- To develop understanding of religious faith as the search for and expression of truth.
- To contribute to the development of pupils' own spiritual / philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own faith and beliefs.

The outcomes for pupils at the end of their education in church schools are that they are able to:

- Think theologically and explore ultimate questions.
- Reflect critically on the truth claims of Christian belief.
- Develop the skills to analyse, interpret and apply the Bible text.
- Recognise that faith is a particular way of understanding and responding to God and the world.
- Analyse and explain the varied nature and traditions of the Christian community.
- Make a well-informed response to Christianity.
- Respect those of all faiths in their search for God.
- Reflect critically on areas of shared belief and practice between different faiths.
- Enrich and expand their understanding of truth.
- Reflect critically and express their views on the human quest and destiny.

Our RE curriculum and teaching also contribute to:

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development

SMSC prepares pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life'. Learning about and from religions and beliefs, through the distinct knowledge, understanding and skills contained in RE within a broad-based curriculum, is essential to achieving these aims. Exploring the concepts of religion and belief and their roles in the spiritual, moral and cultural lives of people in a diverse society helps individuals develop moral awareness and social understanding.

Respect for All & Global Learning

RE makes an important contribution to a school's responsibility to promote respect for all & global learning. It provides a key context to develop young people's understanding and appreciation of diversity, to promote shared values and to challenge racism, discrimination & extremism.

The school community – RE provides a positive context within which the diversity of cultures, beliefs and values can be celebrated and explored.

The community within which the school is located – RE provides opportunities to investigate patterns of diversity of religion and belief and forge links with different groups in the local area in particular local churches and places of worship.

The UK community – a major focus of RE is the study of diversity of religion and belief in the UK and how this influences national life.

The global community – RE involves the study of matters of global significance recognising the diversity of religion and belief and its impact on world issues.

The promotion of 'British Values'

RE provides opportunities to promote the 'British Values' of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty & mutual respect.

Our approaches to teaching RE

- RE has an important part to play as part of a broad, balanced and coherent curriculum to which all pupils are entitled.
- High quality learning experiences in RE are designed and provided by careful planning through the locally agreed syllabus and diocesan materials considering the need to offer breadth of content.
- In order to make religious education a lively, active subject we employ a variety of teaching methods including art, music, discussion, the development of thinking skills, drama, the use of artefacts, pictures, stories, and the use of periods of stillness and reflection. We also use the knowledge and experiences of the children, their family and their faith to enrich our religious education.
- Where possible we want our pupils to have opportunities to encounter local faith communities through visits to local places of worship or visits from members of local faith communities. These include Churches, Mosques, Gurdwaras and synagogues.

We use as a basis for our planning the Locally Agreed Syllabus. As a source of ideas and teaching strategies we also make use of resources from the National Society and Southwell and Nottingham Diocese.

How RE is organised at Bulwell St Mary's C of E Primary School

RE is delivered both as a discrete subject and through project and topic work, as part of our whole school cross-curricular approach. However, it is expected that the children receive an average of one hour of religious education every week.

In accordance with the structure of the locally agreed syllabus we have agreed that

- At KS 1 pupils study Christianity and Judaism
- At KS 2 pupils study Christianity, Islam and Hinduism

Assessment and Recording of RE

In line with the school policy on assessment and recording, religious education is assessed on a termly basis, using Christmas, Easter and the end of the school year as assessment points. Children are assessed against specific 'I can' statements that relate directly to the locally agreed syllabus and the three aims as set out in the syllabus.

RE is not necessarily recorded in every lesson in the pupils' cross-curricular book. Instead, each class has an RE Big Book, within which is a range of recording methods, showing what the children have been learning and their responses. However, some work may be recorded in the cross-curricular book as planned by the class teacher.

Arrangements for monitoring standards of teaching and learning in RE, including how RE contribute to SIAMS School Self Evaluation

The co-ordinator will monitor RE within the school through analysis of assessment data, monitoring planning and staff and pupil interviews.

The co-ordinator is responsible for contributing to the Church school self-evaluation process by planning and monitoring the quality of collective worship and regularly monitoring RE, developing pedagogy, and in conjunction with the head, completing the self-evaluation form.

Responsibilities for RE within the school, (Head teachers and Governors)

As well as fulfilling their legal obligations, the governing body and head teacher should also make sure that:

- all pupils make progress in achieving the learning objectives of the RE curriculum
- the subject is well led and effectively managed and that standards and achievement in RE and the quality of the provision are subject to regular and effective self-evaluation
- those teaching RE are suitably qualified and trained in the subject and have regular and effective opportunities for CPD
- teachers newly appointed to church schools are provided with support offered by the diocese to enable them to become effective teachers of RE
- teachers are aware of RE's contribution in developing pupils' understanding of religion and belief and its impact as part of the duty to promote community cohesion
- teachers explore how new pedagogies and technology can be fully utilised to support RE learning objectives
- clear information is provided for parents on the RE curriculum and the right to withdraw
- RE is resourced, staffed and timetabled so that the school can fulfil its legal obligations on RE and pupils can make good progress

The right of Withdrawal from RE

It is hoped that in a Church of England School it will not be necessary for any pupils to be withdrawn from RE. However, we recognise that this may sometimes be necessary. The school policy should therefore state clearly how that withdrawal will be managed.

At Bulwell C of E Primary School we wish to be an inclusive community but recognise that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from religious education on the grounds of conscience. However, the right of withdrawal does not extend to other areas of the curriculum when, as may happen on occasions, spontaneous questions on religious matters are raised by pupils or there are issues related to religion that arise in other subjects such as history or citizenship.

We would ask any parents/carers who wish to exercise the right of withdrawal to inform the school. We will be proactive about sharing information about our RE Curriculum.

Managing the right of withdrawal

- The school will ensure that parents who want to withdraw their children from RE are aware of the RE syllabus.
- The use of the right to withdraw should be at the instigation of parents, and it should be made clear whether it is from the whole of the subject or specific parts of it. No reasons need be given.
- Parents have the right to choose whether or not to withdraw their child from RE without influence from the school, although a school should ensure that parents or carers are informed of this right and are aware of the educational objectives and content of the RE syllabus. In this way, parents can make an informed decision.
- Where parents have chosen to withdraw their child their right must be respected.
- If pupils are withdrawn from RE, schools have a duty to supervise them, though not to provide additional teaching or to incur extra cost. Pupils will usually remain on school premises.

Review date September 2026