



Halsall St Cuthbert's Church of England Primary School Religious Education Policy 2025

“Let your light shine” (Matthew 5:16)

Introduction

At Halsall St Cuthbert's, Religious Education (RE) is at the heart of school life. Our Religious Education curriculum offer helps children explore faith, values and big life questions, while developing their own sense of identity and purpose. Rooted in our Christian vision to “let your light shine,” RE in our school aims to give pupils the knowledge, skills and understanding to live well with others and to flourish as unique individuals.

Aims of Religious Education

Through RE we want children to:

- Understand Christianity as a living faith that shapes lives in Britain and around the world.
- Learn about other world religions and worldviews, showing respect for similarities and differences.
- Reflect on questions of life, developing their own beliefs and values.

- Grow spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually, becoming thoughtful and compassionate citizens.
- Gain knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews appreciating diversity, continuity and change within them.
- Recognise the concept of religion and its continuing influence on Britain's cultural heritage and in the lives of individuals and societies in different times, cultures and places.
- Engage with challenging questions of meaning and purpose raised by human existence and experience.

Curriculum

We follow the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education's Questful RE Syllabus (2024), in line with the Church of England's Statement of Entitlement (2019). A minimum of 5% of curriculum time is dedicated to RE, with an aspiration to reach 10%. Christianity is the majority religion studied in each year group with a smaller amount of time dedicated to other world faiths. 80% of RE teaching focuses on Christianity, with 20% devoted to other world faiths and worldviews.

Learning is active and reflective, using stories, art, music, drama, discussion, artefacts, visits and visitors to bring faith to life. Each year, pupils also study a focus world faith, enriched by visitors, trips and celebrations. These experiences give pupils a meaningful understanding of diversity and difference, while strengthening their appreciation of our Christian distinctiveness.

Christian Distinctiveness

Our Christian values are central to school life. Each year group adopts one core Christian value to focus on:

- Reception – Friendship
- Year 1 – Compassion
- Year 2 – Respect
- Year 3 – Thankfulness
- Year 4 – Courage
- Year 5 – Service
- Year 6 – Perseverance

Other values are explored through collective worship, assemblies and wider school experiences.

Learning About and From Christianity

We learn about:

- God who reveals the truth about himself and humanity through creation, the giving of the law, his action in history and through the prophets.
- God who reveals himself ultimately in Jesus his Son, living among us and dying and rising for us.
- God who reveals himself in his Spirit working in the living faith of the Church experienced through scripture, tradition and reason.

We learn from:

- An empathetic response to the Christian faith and a critical engagement with it.
- Responding personally to the stories and teachings of Jesus Christ.
- Examples of Christian living which give priority to the values of unconditional love, forgiveness, reconciliation, justice, compassion and faith.

Skills in RE

Through RE we help children to:

- Ask big questions and investigate different beliefs.
- Reflect on their own experiences and values.
- Interpret religious texts, symbols and practices.
- Respect and empathise with others.
- Express ideas and beliefs clearly.
- Evaluate different viewpoints and form thoughtful responses.
- Develop the skills to handle biblical texts and theological ideas.
- Engage in meaningful dialogue with people of all faiths and none.

Assessment

Progress in RE is assessed through discussion, written work, reflection and class floor/scrap books. Teachers use the Questful RE assessment framework to track learning, and progress is reported to parents annually. Assessment and record keeping follow diocesan guidance and support progression in religious literacy.

Progression of Skills in RE

Our RE curriculum is planned to ensure progression in knowledge, skills and understanding across all year groups. We use the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education's *Progression of Skills* framework (2023) to guide teaching and learning.

Pupils develop skills in:

- **Investigating and Enquiring** – asking meaningful questions about faith and belief.
- **Expressing and Interpreting** – retelling stories, interpreting texts and symbols.
- **Reflecting and Empathising** – considering values, influences and experiences of others.
- **Applying and Analysing** – recognising similarities and differences, linking beliefs and practices.
- **Synthesising and Evaluating** – making connections across traditions, exploring ultimate questions and belonging.

This progression ensures that by the end of Key Stage 2, pupils are confident in handling biblical texts, expressing their own views, engaging with challenging questions, and showing respect and understanding of different worldviews.

Special Educational Needs and Inclusion

RE at Halsall is invitational, inspirational and inclusive. It prepares children to live well with difference, while remaining rooted in our Christian foundation. Pupils of all faiths, or none, are respected and included. SEN provision in RE ensures that all pupils can access and make progress in their learning.

Contribution to SMSC and British Values

Religious Education makes a significant contribution to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. It supports pupils in developing respect, tolerance, compassion and responsibility, and it helps promote Christian and British values.

Parental Rights of Withdrawal

Parents may legally withdraw their children from Religious Education and this opportunity is described in the policy and school brochure. The Worship and Religious Education provided by the school is in accordance with the Church of England Foundation. This foundation is also reflected in the curriculum and the whole life of the school community. Since the conduct of the school as a whole

reflects the Church of England ethos, removal of pupils from Worship and/or Religious Education (as parents are legally entitled to do) cannot insulate them from the religious life of the school.

Monitoring and Review

The quality and impact of RE is reviewed regularly by staff and governors, with support from the diocese, to ensure it remains meaningful, engaging and true to our vision.

Policy Details

Version 2

Adopted: September 2025

Review Date: September 2027

Designated Members of Staff: Kate Hampson & Clare Harrison

Governor Responsible: Rev Susan Salt