



# St Gilbert of Sempringham Church of England Primary School and Nursery

## RE Policy

April 2024

Policy review date: 16 May 2024

Date of next review: May 2025



### School Vision Statement

As a welcoming church school, we strive to Sow Seeds and foster pride in all we do. Through an aspirational learning environment, we support our school family to Grow Together so that everyone feels value and motivated to achieve. We Reach High for success at St. Gilbert's and beyond.

### Sow Seeds: Grow Together: Reach High

*'I am the vine; you are the branches.'* (John 15:5)

**Church schools serving their communities through excellence, exploration and encouragement within the love of God.**

The diocese of Lincoln is called to faithful worship, confident discipleship and joyful service and our church schools bear witness to our belief that every child is made in the image of God and loved by Him. They were founded for the good of their local communities so that children can be educated through the values and stories of Christianity.

This policy should be read in conjunction with other policies in school including: SMSC, 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 St Gilbert of Sempringham Church of England Primary School and Nursery 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.

St Gilbert Church of England Primary School and Nursery is a small rural school for children in the age range 2 to 11. We work to the Lincolnshire Locally Agreed Syllabus curriculum for RE; this is delivered through JIGSAW 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 St Gilbert of Sempringham Church of England Primary School and Nursery

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 St Gilbert of Sempringham Church of England Primary School and Nursery.

RE at St Gilbert of Sempringham Church of England Primary School and Nursery will provide within legal requirements. These are as follows:

- 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.
- 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
- 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:
  - o Considering the 'big questions' raised by human experience and reflecting on how religious and other traditions respond to them.
  - o 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.
  - o 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). This time is arranged in a range of ways, including discrete weekly lessons and RE days.

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 and is delivered through the JIGSAW program of RE learning, an overview of which is available on request. At KS1, the principal religious worldviews studied will be Christianity, Judaism and Islam at KS2, the principal religious worldviews studied will be Christianity, Judaism, Islam, and Hinduism.

We conduct curriculum planning for RE in three phases (long-term, medium-term, and short-term). The JIGSAW RE long-term plan maps the sequence of learning in RE; the medium-term plan gives details of each unit of study delivered to each Key Stage, clearly identifying the different types of knowledge developed through the sequence of learning. As we have mixed-age classes, we conduct the medium-term planning on a two-year cycle. JIGSAW RE provides plans for each lesson, these are adapted to reflect the individuality of our school. These 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.

## Resources

St Gilbert of Sempringham C of E Primary School and Nursery has a range of appropriate books and artefacts and access to a wide range of audio and visual resources. 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.

## 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 St Gilbert of Sempringham C of E Primary School and Nursery. 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. St Gilbert of Sempringham Church of England Primary School is a VA school. As such, progress, and attainment in RE is/is not 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 three 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.

### 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 clearly communicate 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 executive head teacher.