

Religious Education Policy

- Effective: March 2025
 - Review: March 2028
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Our School Vision

Our school is a happy family where we encourage each other to shine and be the best that we can be. Our enriching curriculum inspires confident, aspirational pupils to have a love of learning and a passion for serving the community. We are inspired by the words of Philippians 4:13, “I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.” Our Christian values create a safe, nurturing space where all are respected, valued, and enabled to succeed and flourish in God’s love.

At Bosley St. Mary’s, we are immensely proud to be a Church of England Primary School, where our strong Christian distinctiveness is at the heart of everything we do. Our mission and vision are deeply embedded in our school life, guiding us in fostering a nurturing environment for all.

We firmly believe that for children to flourish, they must feel safe, loved, and seen at school. This belief is rooted in our understanding of “Life in all its fullness” as expressed in John 10:10, reminding us of the abundant life God desires for each of us. We embrace and love every child in our community, helping them to discover and develop their God-given gifts, igniting a lifelong passion for learning that will carry them successfully into secondary school and beyond.

As a church school rooted in the heart of the Bosley community, our work is underpinned by our values of **Believe, Encourage, Achieve, Relate, and Serve (BEARS)**. These values, chosen by our school family, embody our Christian vision and guide our approach to education and relationships.

We welcome everyone into our school family and pride ourselves on being caring and inclusive. We work with our wider community and are committed to partnering with parents, governors, and the Chester Diocesan Academies Trust. Together, we strive to provide a rich and varied curriculum that reflects God’s love and concern for the whole child.

Statement of Intent

Our Religious Education curriculum is designed to enable every child to flourish. High-quality RE has the potential to shape a child's heart and mind, combining academic learning with personal character and spiritual growth. RE provides opportunities for deep reflection, critical thinking, and an exploration of meaning, purpose, and belonging.

RE in our school is fundamental in preparing children to live in a diverse society, fostering respect, empathy, and understanding. It plays a crucial role in breaking down barriers and building strong, compassionate communities.

To deliver high-quality RE that reflects our identity as a Church of England school, we will:

- Create opportunities for pupils to experience and understand Christianity as a living faith through engagement with the church calendar, visits to places of worship, and meaningful encounters with local clergy and parishioners.
- Provide a learning environment that celebrates faith, encourages respectful dialogue, and nurtures spiritual growth.
- Plan engaging lessons that meet the needs of all pupils, fostering enthusiasm for RE and allowing them to develop their understanding of Christianity alongside other world faiths.
- Support staff in their own spiritual development, equipping them with the confidence and knowledge to guide children on their faith journeys.

The Importance of RE

Religious Education sits at the heart of our curriculum. As a Church of England school, the management and delivery of RE are distinctive responsibilities of our Local Governing Body and Headteacher, ensuring alignment with our Christian ethos and trust's deeds.

We aim for RE to impact all aspects of school life, making a significant contribution to our values and wider curriculum. Our curriculum follows the **Cheshire East RE Agreed Syllabus**, which is designed to be fully inclusive, exploring the beliefs, ethics, philosophy, and lifestyles that Religious Education encompasses. It promotes high levels of consistency in teaching and learning while allowing teachers the flexibility to engage pupils with challenging spiritual, moral, social, and cultural questions that arise in their lives and communities.

Religious Education contributes dynamically to children's education by provoking deep questions about meaning and purpose, beliefs about God and ultimate reality, issues of life and death, and concepts of right and wrong. Pupils learn about and from religions and worldviews in local, national, and global contexts, developing their ability to weigh up wisdom from different sources, express their own insights, and engage in respectful dialogue. The intention of Religious Education is not to promote the beliefs of any one religion or worldview but to develop pupils' ability to think critically, reflect, and understand different perspectives.

While RE and Collective Worship complement one another, they are managed separately. (Please refer to the **Collective Worship Policy** for further details.)

Intent, Implementation, and Impact

Intent

At Bosley St. Mary's CE Primary School, we believe that Religious Education is a central subject within our curriculum because our Christian faith underpins and informs all aspects of life and learning. RE explores how individuals and communities make meaning of their lives through major world religions, enabling pupils to engage with ultimate questions about life and belief. Our curriculum inspires children to develop and affirm their own values while respecting the beliefs of others.

The aims of teaching RE in our school are to:

- Develop knowledge and understanding of Christian beliefs and practices, including the importance of the Bible and the Church.
- Develop an understanding of other major world religions and their beliefs.
- Explore how belief impacts culture, relationships, and values.
- Understand religious expression through art, music, and celebration.
- Encourage spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development.
- Support pupils in their search for meaning and purpose.
- Develop skills in critical thinking, reflection, and empathy.

Implementation

RE at Bosley St. Mary's is taught using a **three-year rolling programme** based on the Cheshire East RE Agreed Syllabus. Our curriculum prioritises Christianity while

exploring other world religions. Lessons are designed to be engaging, inclusive, and thought-provoking, using discussion, enquiry, and experiential learning.

We enrich our RE provision through:

- Regular visits to our local church and places of worship.
- Guest speakers and faith community interactions.
- Cross-curricular links to festivals and celebrations.
- Differentiated activities ensuring accessibility for all learners.

Impact

We assess RE through observations, discussions, and work samples. The subject leader monitors RE through lesson observations, work scrutiny, and pupil voice, feeding into school self-evaluation. Displays of RE work celebrate learning across the school.

Right of Withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from RE if they wish to provide their own instruction. This right extends to all pupils, and students over 18 may withdraw themselves. Parents should discuss any concerns with the Headteacher to explore solutions that support their child's learning.

Conclusion

At Bosley St. Mary's, we believe that Religious Education is essential in nurturing children's academic, personal, and spiritual growth. Through our engaging, values-driven curriculum, we aim to inspire pupils to live out their faith, contribute positively to society, and develop a deep understanding of themselves, others, and the world around them.

Our aim is that every member of our school family is empowered by the words in Philippians 4:13:

"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."

(John 10:10 - "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.")