



# Religious Education Policy 2024

**Policy Originator:** Headteacher

**Status:** Non Statutory      **Review Period:** Three Years

**Date:** December 2024      **Next review date:** December 2027

## Introduction

Religious Education at Shalford Infant & Nursery School is based on the Surrey Agreed Syllabus for RE which can be viewed [here](#). It is a statutory curriculum subject. We value RE because it promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society.

The requirements of the agreed syllabus apply to all year groups and to all children unless parents have exercised their right to withdraw their child from the teaching of RE.

## Aims

The aims of Religious Education at Shalford Infant & Nursery School are to allow children to:

- Develop an awareness of spiritual and moral issues in life experiences;
- Develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other major world religions and value systems found in Britain;
- Develop an understanding of what it means to be committed to a religious tradition;
- Develop an understanding of religious traditions and to appreciate the cultural differences in Britain today;
- Develop an understanding of religious celebrations and important events within religions;
- Be able to reflect on their own experiences and be able to make reasoned judgements about religious issues;
- Have respect for other people's views and to celebrate the diversity in society.

Through this policy the school endeavours to meet the statutory requirement contained in the 1988 Education Reform Act. Religious Education is compulsory for all children, including those in the EYFS who are less than five years old.

The RE syllabus reflects the fact that the religious traditions in the United Kingdom are in the main Christian and that at the same time it takes account of the teachings and practices of other major religions.

It is also our aim that children and families within our school community should be given the opportunity to share their beliefs and experiences.

Our RE curriculum supports pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development and also children's understanding of fundamental British Values.

## **Organisation, Planning and Evaluation of Religious Education**

At Shalford Infant & Nursery School, we plan our RE curriculum in accordance with the Surrey Agreed Syllabus. We ensure that the topics studied in religious education build upon prior learning and we offer opportunities for children of all abilities to develop their skills and knowledge in each unit. We plan for RE in three stages: long, medium and short term.

Religious Education is largely taught as a discrete subject and sessions are identified on KS1 class timetables as 'RE'. At other times we teach RE topics in conjunction with other subjects and some of our medium-term plans may have a particular link to a historical, geographical or PSHE focus.

In the EYFS, opportunities for RE are taught as part of developing children's understanding of the world and through opportunities for PSED development. To inform our EYFS planning we use the EYFS Curriculum Development Matters document alongside the Surrey Agreed Syllabus (especially guidance for PSED and Understanding the World).

## **Assessment**

The school monitors pupils' learning against the key objectives within the Surrey RE Agreed Syllabus and keeps whole class records of assessment, completed on a termly basis. These are shared with parents in annual reports.

## **Special Needs**

All pupils should have the opportunity to explore religious experiences and find meaning in their own way. RE starts from the pupils' own experiences and encourages them to explore and find out more.

## **Right to Withdraw**

All parents and carers have the right to withdraw their children from RE wholly or partially; although this should only be done once the parents or carers have given written notice to the school. All staff, including the Headteacher, have the legal right to withdraw from teaching RE but only after they have given notice of their intention to the school's Local Governing Body. Should this occur the Headteacher remains responsible for finding someone suitable to organise and teach RE.