



**ARCHBISHOP OF YORK'S CE JUNIOR SCHOOL**  
**POLICY FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE)**

Date Adopted June 2024	Kerry Davies Executive Headteacher	Signature 
Date of review June 2026	Tim Andrew Chair of Governors	Signature 

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

We deliver a RE curriculum which is rich and varied, enabling learners to acquire a thorough knowledge and understanding of a range of faiths and world views. We are a welcoming, inclusive family with a strong Christian ethos. We aim to nurture our children as we endeavour to enable pupils to develop the understanding and skills they need to make sense of religion, reflecting on their own ideas and ways of living, as well as developing their own responses to the lives and cultures of others.

## 2.0 OUR PRINCIPAL AIMS FOR RE

Our principal aim for RE is to engage pupils in exploring questions about life which religions and worldviews address. This will enable pupils to develop the understanding and skills they need to make sense of religion, reflecting on their own ideas and ways of living, as well as developing their own responses.

Within the framework of the law and the Agreed Syllabus York SACRE 2021-2026, at AYJS we aim for religious education to

- Allow pupils to acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of the beliefs and practices of Christianity and other major world religions (Islam, Hinduism, Judaism and Humanism) represented in Great Britain.
- Enable pupils to explore and evaluate how beliefs, values and traditions affect an individual, their choices and way of life.
- Nurture pupils to make their own spiritual journey, enabling them to make wise choices in their lives informed by their understanding and appreciation of Christian values and knowledge of other world faiths.

## 3.0 CONTEXT

The context of RE at AYJS is that of a mixed form entry Junior School. RE is taught and planned specifically for each year group based on the Local Agreed Syllabus YORK SACRE 2021-2026 and 'Understanding Christianity' Units on a two-year rolling program. Our school benefits from good links with local churches and the Archbishop's Palace and is supported by visitors of other faiths.

## 4.0 CURRICULUM CORE ELEMENTS

Religious Education, within our school, maintains a balanced approach between:

- **Believing** (*Religious belief, teachings, questions about meaning, purpose and truth*)
- **Expressing** (*Religious and spiritual forms of expression; questions about identity and diversity*)
- **Living** (*Religious practices and ways of living; questions about values and commitments*)

## 4.0 CURRICULUM CORE ELEMENTS - continued

At AYJS we study Christianity as the principal religion, in reflection of our church school

distinctiveness. However, children also study Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Humanism and worldviews throughout the key stage. Within the long-term plan, we provide a range of opportunities to explore the experience of the Church's year, visit places of worship, encourage mutual respect based on Christian values and develop an understanding of the church as a living community.

RE is concerned with the developing skills and attitudes, as well as gaining and extending pupil's knowledge and understanding of religions and world views. Through effective planning and teaching pupils are encouraged to be curious and ask increasingly challenging questions about religion, belief, values and human life. Pupils learn to express their own ideas and identify relevant information by selecting examples and giving reasons to support their ideas and views.

## **5.0 ASSESSMENT**

Our assessment of pupils will ensure that teachers understand what individual pupils know and can do. Teachers refer to and use the learning outcomes in the unit plans of the Agreed Syllabus. This allows teachers to ensure that all three core elements are addressed and this enables pupils to make progress in knowledge, understanding and skills throughout the key stage. Informal assessments are made within and after lessons through observation, discussion and verbal feedback, peer and self-assessment, reflection and marking. Currently, children are not formally levelled in RE. To ensure progression and to support continued monitoring and development of RE, children's books are passed on each year for use.

## **6.0 LEGAL REQUIREMENTS, TIME ALLOCATION AND WITHDRAWAL**

At our school we recognise that Religious Education is a legal requirement within the curriculum and is distinct from collective worship time. Sufficient dedicated curriculum time, meeting explicitly RE objectives, should be committed to the delivery of RE. This should aim to be close to 10% but must be no less than 5% in key stages 1-4.

We recognise that parents have the right to withdraw their child from Religious Education in school. We would encourage any parent with concerns to contact us to discuss the matter further.