St James C of E Academy

Religious Education Policy

"Here at St James we believe that 'everyone is loved, this will allow all to flourish and unlock their potential promoting joy in lifelong learning. We will use our faith, Gods words and the light he gives to support this."

Unlocking potential and flourishing

"I can do all things through Christ; who strengthens me."

Philippians 4:13

Joy in Lifelong learning

"Put these abilities to work; throw yourself into your tasks so that everyone may notice your improvement and progress."

1Timothy 4:15

Everyone is Loved

"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you"

John 15:12

Policy adopted: October 2026

Date of next review: October 2027

Our Vision

At St James CE Academy, Religious Education is at the heart of our Christian vision:

"Here at St James, we believe that everyone is loved. This will allow all to flourish and unlock their potential, promoting joy in lifelong learning. We will use our faith, God's words and the light He gives to support this."

"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." John 15:12

We believe that every member of our school community is loved by God and has inherent dignity and worth. Through Religious Education, we seek to nurture children who are curious, compassionate, reflective and respectful. RE enables our pupils to flourish spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and academically, helping them to understand both their own beliefs and those of others.

Rooted in our Christian foundation, RE provides opportunities for children to explore life's big questions, engage with diverse worldviews and develop the knowledge, understanding and wisdom needed to contribute positively to a diverse and changing world.

Aim Statement

In line with the 2026 Warwickshire Agreed Syllabus and the Church of England Statement of Entitlement, Religious Education at St James engages pupils in the systematic exploration of significant theological, philosophical and human questions. Through the study of Christianity as a living world faith, alongside a range of religions and worldviews, pupils develop religious literacy, critical thinking and a deeper understanding of themselves and others.

Through high-quality Religious Education, children are encouraged to:

- Know about and understand Christianity as a diverse and living faith.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews.
- Ask and explore meaningful questions about belief, identity, meaning and purpose.
- Reflect on their own experiences, values and beliefs.
- Develop respect, empathy and understanding for those whose beliefs may differ from their own.
- Engage thoughtfully and respectfully in discussion and debate.
- Recognise the impact that faith and belief have on individuals, communities and society.
- Flourish as confident learners who are equipped to navigate life in a diverse world.

Aims of Religious Education at St James CE Academy

Through our RE curriculum, we aim to ensure that all pupils:

- Understand the Christian concept of God's love and how this influences the lives of Christians.
- Explore the teachings, theology and practices of Christianity through the Understanding Christianity resource.
- Develop a secure understanding of the Bible and its place within the Christian faith.
- Engage with the "big story" of Creation, Fall, People of God, Incarnation, Gospel, Salvation and Kingdom of God.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of other principal religions and worldviews represented in Britain and the wider world.
- Reflect on questions of meaning, purpose, truth, morality and identity.
- Develop the confidence to express their own views whilst respecting the views of others.
- Recognise and celebrate diversity within and between faith communities.
- Be inspired to live well together through mutual respect, compassion and understanding.
- Flourish academically, spiritually and personally, recognising their own potential and the value of every individual.

Religious Literacy and Flourishing

At St James, we aspire for all children to become religiously literate. By the time they leave our school, pupils will be able to:

- Give a thoughtful and theologically informed account of Christianity as a living faith.
- Demonstrate understanding of a range of religious and non-religious worldviews.
- Engage in respectful and informed dialogue about matters of faith and belief.
- Reflect critically on their own beliefs, values and experiences.
- Apply learning from RE to their understanding of the world and their place within it.
- Recognise how our vision that **"everyone is loved"** calls us to treat others with dignity, compassion and respect.

This means that Religious Education not only develops knowledge and understanding but also supports the flourishing of every child, enabling them to unlock their potential and experience joy in lifelong learning.

St James CE Academy

Religious Education Curriculum Map

Warwickshire Religion and Worldviews Agreed Syllabus (2024-2029) and Understanding Christianity

See Appendix 1

Progression Statement

Through the St James RE curriculum, pupils develop:

Theology

- Understanding of Christian beliefs and doctrines through the Understanding Christianity resource.
- Knowledge of key beliefs, practices and traditions within a range of religious and non-religious worldviews.

Philosophy

- The ability to ask and explore profound questions about meaning, purpose, truth and morality.
- Respectful discussion, reasoning and critical thinking.

Human and Social Sciences

- Understanding of how beliefs influence individuals and communities.
- Recognition of diversity within and between religious traditions.

Personal Knowledge and Flourishing

Rooted in our vision that **everyone is loved**, pupils are encouraged to reflect upon their own experiences, values and beliefs. Through exploring religion and worldviews, children develop empathy, wisdom, respect and an appreciation of difference, enabling them to flourish as confident and compassionate members of society.

Teaching and Learning

Religious Education is a core subject at St James CE Academy and is given a minimum of 5% curriculum time, equating to at least one hour per week.

Rooted in our vision that **everyone is loved**, RE provides opportunities for all pupils to flourish as theologians, philosophers and social scientists. Through the study of Christianity and a range of religious and non-religious worldviews, pupils are encouraged to ask questions, explore meaning and purpose, and develop a deeper understanding of themselves, others and the world around them.

Our teaching reflects the approach of the Coventry and Warwickshire Religion and Worldviews Agreed Syllabus and promotes religious literacy through the exploration of beliefs, lived experiences, diversity and identity. Pupils are encouraged to engage with "big questions", consider a range of perspectives and develop the knowledge and skills needed to participate respectfully in a diverse society.

Learning in RE is engaging, enquiry-based and reflective. Lessons provide opportunities for pupils to:

- Explore theological concepts and religious beliefs.
- Investigate how faith and worldviews influence people's lives and actions.
- Ask meaningful questions and develop critical thinking skills.
- Reflect on their own values, beliefs and experiences.
- Engage in respectful discussion and dialogue.
- Make connections between learning, their own lives and the wider world.

To enrich learning, children participate in a range of experiences including visits to places of worship, encounters with faith representatives, collaborative projects, research, discussion, storytelling, art, drama and digital learning opportunities.

As a Church of England school, we recognise and celebrate the diversity of beliefs represented within our community. Our RE curriculum promotes dignity, respect and understanding, ensuring that all pupils feel valued and able to contribute.

Inclusion

We are committed to ensuring that every child can access and succeed in Religious Education. Learning is carefully adapted to meet the needs of all learners, including pupils with SEND, disadvantaged pupils and those with English as an additional language.

This may include:

- Appropriate scaffolding and support.
- Adaptive teaching strategies.

- Use of visual and practical resources.
- Carefully structured discussion and collaborative learning.
- Additional adult support where appropriate.

Through this inclusive approach, we seek to ensure that all pupils flourish and reach their potential.

Curriculum Planning

Our Religious Education curriculum is planned in accordance with the Warwickshire Religion and Worldviews Agreed Syllabus and the Church of England's *Understanding Christianity* resource.

The curriculum has been carefully designed to provide a coherent and progressive journey from Year 3 to Year 6, enabling pupils to deepen their understanding of Christianity whilst developing knowledge of a range of religious and non-religious worldviews.

RE is planned through a long-term curriculum map, medium-term unit planning and lesson-by-lesson sequences. The curriculum builds upon prior learning and revisits key concepts over time, allowing pupils to strengthen understanding, make links and develop increasing sophistication in their thinking.

Through their learning, pupils develop disciplinary knowledge through:

Theology

Exploring beliefs, teachings, sacred texts and key theological concepts.

Philosophy

Asking questions about meaning, purpose, truth and morality.

Human and Social Sciences

Investigating how beliefs and worldviews are lived and expressed within communities and everyday life.

This approach enables pupils to become religiously literate young people who can engage thoughtfully with the diverse world around them.

Understanding Christianity

As a Church of England school, *Understanding Christianity* forms a significant component of our Religious Education curriculum.

The programme enables pupils to gain a rich and deep understanding of Christianity as a living, global faith through the exploration of core theological concepts and the Bible's ongoing narrative.

Pupils are encouraged to:

- Make sense of biblical texts.
- Understand the impact of Christian belief on people's lives.
- Reflect upon their own ideas, beliefs and experiences.
- Make connections between Christianity and wider religious and worldview learning.

The curriculum is structured around the "Big Story" of the Bible, with key concepts revisited throughout Key Stage 2, allowing children to deepen understanding and make meaningful connections between different aspects of Christian belief.

The key concepts explored are:

- God
- Creation and Fall
- People of God
- Incarnation
- Gospel
- Salvation
- Kingdom of God

Through these concepts, pupils develop an increasingly theological understanding of Christianity and its significance today.

Resources

High-quality resources are essential in supporting effective Religious Education.

St James CE Academy invests in a range of resources to ensure pupils experience a rich, engaging and accurate RE curriculum. These include:

- Understanding Christianity materials.
- RE Today resources.
- Artefacts from a variety of faith traditions.
- Quality texts and sacred scriptures.

- Digital resources and multimedia.
- Access to faith communities and places of worship.

Educational visits and visitor experiences are planned carefully to enhance learning and provide authentic encounters with people of faith and belief. Appropriate risk assessments are completed to ensure activities are safe and accessible to all pupils.

Professional Development

The RE Subject Leader is responsible for ensuring high-quality Religious Education across the school.

The Subject Leader engages in regular professional development and provides guidance, support and training for staff. All teaching staff are encouraged to develop their understanding of Religious Education, Religion and Worldviews, and the distinctive role of RE within a Church of England school.

This commitment to ongoing professional development helps ensure that RE remains relevant, rigorous and inspiring for all pupils.

Governance

The Local Governing Body and Academy Committee play an active role in supporting and monitoring Religious Education.

Governors receive updates on standards, curriculum developments and strategic priorities and ensure that the school's RE provision remains aligned to both statutory requirements and the school's Christian vision.

Assessment

Assessment in Religious Education is used to support pupils in making progress and to inform future teaching.

Teachers assess learning through:

- Observation of classroom discussion.
- Pupil responses and recorded work.
- Retrieval and reflection activities.
- End-of-unit assessment opportunities.

- Pupil voice and discussion.

Assessment focuses on the acquisition of substantive knowledge, disciplinary understanding and pupils' ability to apply their learning thoughtfully and respectfully.

Information gathered through assessment is used to identify strengths, address misconceptions and ensure all pupils continue to make progress throughout their RE journey.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The RE Subject Leader is responsible for monitoring the quality of teaching, learning and assessment in Religious Education.

Monitoring activities may include:

- Learning walks.
- Book scrutiny.
- Curriculum reviews.
- Lesson visits.
- Pupil voice activities.
- Planning reviews.
- Staff discussions.

Findings inform ongoing curriculum development and contribute to school improvement priorities, ensuring that RE continues to enable every child to flourish and experience joy in lifelong learning.

Right of Withdrawal

Religious Education is a statutory part of the basic curriculum in all maintained schools and academies.

Parents and carers continue to have the legal right to request that their child be wholly or partly withdrawn from Religious Education. However, at St James CE Academy we strongly believe that RE plays a vital role in preparing children for life in modern Britain, promoting understanding, respect and appreciation of different beliefs and worldviews.

Before any withdrawal is agreed, the Headteacher or RE Leader will meet with parents or carers to discuss:

- The nature and purpose of Religious Education at St James.
- The curriculum content that is causing concern.
- Whether alternative arrangements can address those concerns.

Where a withdrawal request is upheld, the school will agree appropriate supervision arrangements; however, the school is not required to provide alternative Religious Education.

As a Church of England school, we hope that all families will recognise the value of Religious Education in developing religious literacy, fostering respect for diversity and supporting children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development in line with our vision that **everyone is loved and able to flourish**.

CONCEPTS:

Belonging and Believing

Wisdom and Guidance

Personal Responsibility

Living Well

Authority and Power

Whole School Overview
RELIGION AND WORLDVIEW

"Here at St James we believe that 'everyone is loved, this will allow all to flourish and unlock their potential promoting joy in lifelong learning. We will use our faith, Gods words and the light he gives to support this."

DISCIPLINES:

Theology (THEO)

Philosophy (PHIL)

Human and Social Science (HSS)

History (HIST)

ALL YEAR GROUPS **First lesson of the year:** **What is worldview?** **What are the disciplines and what do they mean?** **(1 AFTERNOON)**						
YEAR 3	**Autumn 1**	**Autumn 2**	**Spring 1**	**Spring 2**	**Summer 1**	**Summer 2**
LAYOVER UNIT FIRST	**Islamic:** **Enquiry questions:** • How do those with Muslim worldviews often demonstrate their beliefs? (masjid, prayer and service to humanity) • What is so important about the Qur'an? (divine revelation and divine guidance) (2 lessons)					
THEN ENQUIRY QUESTION (CWAS)	Why are nature and the seasons significant for religion and world views? **L2.1** (9 lessons)		How are world views shaped and expressed through art and architecture? **L2.2** (8 lessons)		What can world views tell us about conflict, peace, forgiveness and reconciliation and is that important? **L2.3** (10 lessons)	
UNDERSTANDING CHRISTIANITY UNIT	*UC 2A.3:* *What is the trinity?* ***Incarnation / God***		*UC 2A.5* *Why do Christians call the day Jesus died 'Good' Friday?* ***Salvation***		*UC 2A.1* *What do Christians learn from the creation story?* ***Creation***	

YEAR 4	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
LAYOVER UNIT FIRST	Sanatan Dharma (Formally known as Hinduism): **Enquiry questions:** What is Sanatan Dharma? Exploring the concept of duty How is the soul/self understood in Hindu worldviews? Exploring the concept of atman, karma and moksha What is the source of Hindu wisdom? Exploring the concept of the Vedas (3 lessons)					
ENQUIRY QUESTION (CWAS)	How might your world view lead you to do hard things for good reasons? **L2.4** (10 lessons)		What or who is 'God' and how is the divine understood in theistic world views? **L2.5** (11 lessons)		Do you have to be part of a faith community to express an organised world view? **L2.6** (4 lessons)	How have religion and history entwined in this area? **L2.7** (5 lessons)
UNDERSTANDING CHRISTIANITY UNIT	*UC 2A.3:* *What is the trinity? (Digging deeper)* ***Incarnation / God***		*UC 2A.6* *When Jesus left, what was the impact of Pentecost?* ***Kingdom of God***		*UC 2A.1* *What is it like to follow God* ***People of God***	

YEAR 5	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
LAYOVER UNIT FIRST	**Sikh:** **Enquiry questions:** • What is unique about the Sikh understanding of God / supreme being? (Waheguru) • Are all Sikhs the same? (Khalsa and non-affiliation) • What is the significance of the gurdwara? (langar) (3 lessons)					
ENQUIRY QUESTION (CWAS)	Why might ancient stories still be so important for some worldviews today? **U2.2** (10 lessons)		Do religions change or stay the same? **U2.3** (8 lessons)		What might it mean to 'live well'? **U2.4** (9 lessons)	
UNDERSTANDING CHRISTIANITY UNIT	*UC 2B.4* *Was Jesus the Messiah?* ***Incarnation***		*UC 2B.6* *What did Jesus do to save human beings?* ***Salvation***		*UC 2B.2* *Creation and Science: conflicting or complementary?* ***Creation / Fall***	

YEAR 6	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
LAYOVER UNIT FIRST	**Jewish:** **Enquiry questions:** • Why are festivals so important for those with Jewish worldviews? (remembering) • Why is it important to gather together as Jewish people? (synagogue) • Why does following commandments matter in Jewish worldviews? (Mitvot) (3 lessons)					
ENQUIRY QUESTION (CWAS)	How do beliefs and ideas about land shape the way human beings live? **U2.5** (10 lessons)		How might your worldview impact on the way you understand death and beyond? **U2.6** (9 lessons)		What do organised worldviews have to tell us about truth and where it might be found? **U2.7** (10 lessons)	
UNDERSTANDING CHRISTIANITY UNIT	*UC 2B.8* *What kind of king is Jesus?* ***Kingdom of God***		*UC 2B.7* *What difference does the resurrection make to Christians?* ***Salvation***		*UC 2B.2* *Creation and Science: conflicting or complementary? (Digging deeper)* ***Creation / Fall***	