



Religious Education Curriculum Overview

At The Deanery school, our Religious Education curriculum is designed so that every child can flourish through learning that builds wisdom, deepening their understanding of faith, belief, and the world around them. We use a conceptual enquiry approach, exploring key Christian concepts through the *Understanding Christianity* scheme, and engaging with other world faiths and worldviews through the *Living Difference (HIAS)* scheme. Together, these frameworks aim to nurture theologically literate pupils who can think critically, speak confidently, and listen respectfully as they explore life's big questions.

Class teachers deliver Religious Education weekly, drawing on a variety of teaching and learning methods. Lessons encourage pupils to develop oracy skills through discussion, debate, questioning, and storytelling, while also strengthening vocabulary through the deliberate teaching of key theological and philosophical terms. Religious Education also extends beyond discrete lessons, with opportunities for cross-curricular learning that connects RE with literacy, history, and personal development.

Religious Education is taught in half-termly units that meet the government's recommended time allocation for Key Stages 1 and 2. The curriculum follows a spiral structure, meaning key concepts are revisited and explored in greater depth as children progress through the school. This approach supports a growing sense of wisdom and reflection as pupils mature in their understanding.

Our curriculum is enriched by visits to places of worship, guest speakers from the community, and experiential learning through artefacts, story, drama, and visual resources. These experiences build connection with the wider community and help pupils see faith as something lived and shared. All parents have the right to withdraw their child from Religious Education; however, before exercising this right, they are encouraged to discuss the matter with Mrs McIntosh.

Religious Education is central to our school's Christian vision and underpins our understanding of what it means to live well together. Through RE, children flourish spiritually, developing curiosity, compassion, and discernment as they explore faith and meaning.

The aims of Religious Education in our school are to:

- Enable pupils to know about and understand Christianity as a living faith that influences lives worldwide and has deeply shaped British culture and heritage.
- Enable pupils to know and understand other major world religions and worldviews, appreciating their impact on society, culture, and the wider world, and developing the ability to express ideas and insights clearly.
- Contribute to the development of pupils' own spiritual and philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their beliefs and values.
- Provide opportunities for spoken reflection, encouraging pupils to listen to others with respect and to develop empathy through dialogue.
- Develop questioning, reasoning, and evaluative skills, fostering curiosity and confidence in speaking about belief and morality.
- Build moral understanding and a sense of responsibility toward others.

By the end of their primary education at The Deanery school, pupils will have:

- Developed a rich religious and theological vocabulary and the confidence to use it when expressing their understanding of faith and worldviews.
- Explained connections between Biblical texts and key concepts, using theological language accurately and insightfully.
- Made clear connections between Bible teachings and how Christians live within their Church communities and the wider world.
- Weighed up how Biblical ideas relate to current issues, developing thoughtful insights of their own.
- Recognised and explained key concepts shared by many faiths, as well as those unique to specific religions.
- Understood how concepts of belief are lived out by different communities and reflected on their value and relevance in people's lives.
- Expressed their own considered responses to questions of meaning, belief, and purpose, relating these to their own experiences.
- Given a thoughtful and theologically informed account of Christianity as a living and diverse faith.
- Shown an informed, respectful attitude toward religions and worldviews in their search for God and meaning.
- Engaged confidently in dialogue and discussion with people of all faiths and none.
- Reflected critically and responsibly on their own spiritual, moral, and ethical convictions, demonstrating that Religious Education at The Deanery school helps every child flourish through wisdom, understanding, and faith in action.