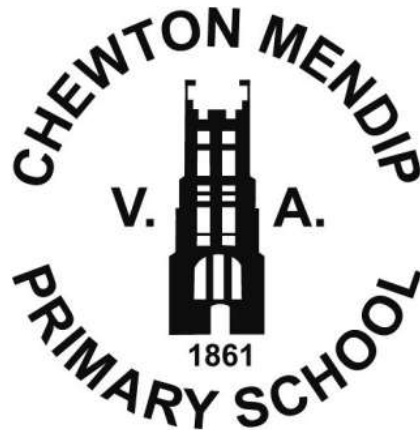


Chewton Mendip Church of England
Voluntary Aided Primary School



Religious Education (RE) Policy

Approved by: FGB June 2026

Last reviewed on: June 2026

Next review due by: June 2027

Religious Education (RE) Policy

“The seed fell into good ground and grew up increasing and yielding thirty, sixty and a hundred times as much” Mark 4:8 (Parable of the Sower)

We strive to be that ‘good ground’ where our children can grow in knowledge, skills and wisdom, with hope, aspiration, dignity and respect. Our ambition is that they can thrive and contribute to their communities and live well together. We embrace the Church of England’s vision for education that all children will have “life in all its fullness” (John 10:10)

At our school we are committed to promoting a caring and supportive environment where everyone feels safe, secure and respected, where we are all “Growing together.”

This Policy relates to the whole school including the Early Years Foundation Stage and is reviewed annually to ensure compliance with current regulations and law.

Context

We are a small rural Voluntary Aided (VA) Church of England Primary school. As a VA school, our governing body determines our RE curriculum, which is in accordance with our trust deed and is discussed with the diocese of Bath and Wells. We teach according to the Somerset Agreed Syllabus, with additional teaching and activities on Christianity

We recognise the variety of religious and non-religious backgrounds our pupils come from and welcome diversity. We recognise the inter-relationship between pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, and the leading role in which the RE curriculum plays in some of these areas.

Policy Statement

Religious Education (RE) has a very high profile within our school. Learning activities provide fully for the needs of all learners. Pupils will develop a wide range of skills such as enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and reflection. Christianity is taught as a living and diverse faith, alongside a range of religions and world views.

Legal Requirements

Chewton Mendip CofE VA Primary school is required to follow the locally agreed Somerset schools RE syllabus drawn up by the standing Advisory Council for Religious Education [SACRE] and in agreement with our schools trust deed.

Section 48 of the 2005 Education Act requires the inspection of religious education in schools which have a religious character. This is the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS.)

Aims of RE

RE in our school will be in line with legal requirements and the Church of England’s RE Statement of Entitlement (2026). This states RE should enable pupils to:

- Engage meaningfully and critically with learning which helps them to make sense of the multi-religious and multi-secular world in which they live.
- Know about and understand Christianity as a diverse global living faith through the exploration of beliefs and practices, using approaches which engage with biblical text and key sources of authority.
- Gain knowledge and understanding of a range of religious and non-religious worldviews, appreciating the complexity, diversity, continuity and change that exists within those worldviews being studied.

- Understand the concept of religion and recognise its continuing influence on Britain's cultural heritage and in the lives of individuals, communities and societies in different times, cultures and places.
- Develop disciplinary knowledge which equips pupils to be religiously literate.
- Explore their personal worldviews; their own religious or non-religious, spiritual and philosophical ways of living, believing and thinking.
- To engage with challenging questions of meaning and purpose raised by human existence and experience.
- To contribute to the development of pupils' own spiritual/philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own beliefs and values.
- The RE which is provided shall be in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus for Somerset.

Implementation

Religious education is taught in a whole class setting but with flexibility to allow for discussion, questioning and reflection in small groups and individually.

A variety of teaching approaches are encouraged: Teacher presentations, role play, drama and storytelling. Questions and answer sessions, discussions and debates. Individual and group research. Photographs, pictures and maps. Reflections of thoughts and ideas may be added to our 'Growing together' books and class blogs on our website.

We will also learn through visits from local vicars to present bible readings to the school or classes. Visits to all local churches and other places of worship are encouraged, whilst maintaining strong links with St Mary Magdalene, our local church.

During the Christian Calendar, the school will hold services at St Mary Magdalene Church. This is to accommodate parents, carers, family members and our school community, and to show an understanding of the Christian belief where all faiths are welcomed into the church as visitors, not necessarily as worshippers, sharing joy and hope in the community.

Each term a class will lead our worship in the church. The themes are linked to our school parable of the Sower and our school values.

Learning through engaging activities will be recorded in shared 'Growing Together' books throughout the school. This may be through photographs of activities from the lesson or visit, examples of individual learning and notes on reflections.

Pupils will be taught a broad, balanced and full curriculum each year and this is shown in our long- and medium-term plans for every year group.

Curriculum balance and time

It is recommended that RE is taught for a minimum of 36 hours per year for Key Stage 1 pupils and 45 hours per year at Key Stage 2.

In our school RE is taught:

EYFS	Planned within the EYFS Framework
KS1	50 minutes a week
KS2	1 hour a week

Our curriculum has been written considering the Somerset Agreed Syllabus. A detailed scheme of work is available on our school website and should be read alongside this policy.

In line with our trust deed, Christianity should be the majority religion studied and should be at least 50% of curriculum time. The remaining curriculum time introduces pupils to other principal world religions alongside non-religious worldviews. This approach fosters a spirit of hospitality, dignity, and deep respect of all people.

Resources

We have a wide range of resources which we use in lessons, across curriculum areas and in collective worship sessions including resources provided by the Somerset LTLRE (Learn, Teach, Lead RE) and other artefacts.

Every class has a cross, candle, bibles and reflection area. Our school prayer and values are displayed in every classroom. Along with the Lord's Prayer.

Monitoring, Evaluation, Assessment, Recording, Reporting

Governors have responsibility for monitoring how the RE in the school reflects its Christian vision

- The Headteacher has overall responsibility for monitoring and evaluation.
- The RE subject leader will assist the headteacher by monitoring plans and learning.
- The subject leader will manage resources and will endeavour to keep up to date with information, initiatives and developments in religious education and disseminate this as appropriate.
- The subject leader will liaise with the Diocesan adviser with responsibility for Religious Education.

Assessment

At the end of each unit, children will complete an assessment, posed through a question to assess their learning. These assessments are recorded in assessment books and show progression in the child's knowledge and understanding.

Managing the right to withdraw

There may be children within the school community whose families are members of another faith, or who hold a non-religious world view. Parents have a right by law to withdraw their children from the Religious Education curriculum. Parents wishing to request a withdrawal should do so in writing and will meet with the headteacher to discuss their concerns and requirements.