



Small Beginnings; Endless Possibilities

"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches."
Matthew 13 31-32

Religion and Worldviews Policy

Policy agreed (date):	November 2025
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Next review (date):	November 2028

Introduction

This Religion and Worldviews Policy sets out the vision, aims, implementation and monitoring arrangements for Religious Education (RE), here referred to as *Religion and Worldviews (RW)*, at our Voluntary Aided (VA) school. Rooted in the theological and educational foundations of Church of England schools, this policy affirms our commitment to high-quality, inclusive and thought-provoking religious education for all pupils.

Central to our vision is the parable of the mustard seed (Mark 4:30–32), symbolising the transformative growth of faith and knowledge from small beginnings. This imagery mirrors the empowering nature of RW education in nurturing pupils' understanding of themselves, others and the wider world, and directly reflects our core school values of **compassion**, **curiosity**, and **courage**.

This policy reflects our use of the **Wiltshire Locally Agreed Syllabus (2025)** and **Kapow Primary's Religion and Worldviews curriculum**, and aligns closely with the expectations set out in the **SIAMS Framework (2023)**, **Ofsted Education Inspection Framework (2025 toolkit)** and relevant DfE guidance.

Purpose and Rationale

Our aim is for high-quality Religion and Worldviews provision that:

- Encourages deep thinking, respectful dialogue and personal reflection.
- Promotes religious literacy and an understanding of diverse belief systems and worldviews.
- Enables pupils to develop the character and skills to live compassionately and courageously in a diverse and complex world.

In accordance with the Education Act 1996 (sections 375(3) and Schedule 19), as a VA school, we are empowered to deliver an RE curriculum rooted in Christian faith while also reflecting the locally agreed syllabus and coverage of other world religions and non-religious worldviews. This ensures broad, balanced and inclusive provision.

Aims

The aims of Religion and Worldviews at our school are to:

- Provoke challenging questions about the meaning and purpose of life, beliefs, the self, and the nature of reality.
- Foster knowledge and understanding of Christianity as a living world faith, alongside an exploration of principal religions and worldviews in Great Britain.
- Cultivate religious literacy—the ability to hold balanced and well-informed conversations about religion and belief.
- Support pupils in developing spiritually, morally, socially and culturally (SMSC), in line with both the SIAMS and Ofsted frameworks.
- Encourage curiosity, compassion and courage in engaging with diverse views and experiences.

Legal and Statutory Requirements

Statutory Framework

This policy is informed by:

- **Education Act 2002:** RE must be part of the basic curriculum for all registered pupils.
- **Education Act 1996:** VA schools are required to teach RE in accordance with the school's trust deed.
- **DfE Guidance (Religious Education in English Schools: Non-statutory guidance, 2010).**
- **Wiltshire Locally Agreed Syllabus 2025.**
- **SIAMS Framework 2023.**
- **Ofsted Inspection Framework and Toolkit 2025** – particularly in areas relating to curriculum intent, implementation and impact.

Local and Diocesan Context

As a VA Church of England school, our RE curriculum reflects the teachings of the Church, grounded in biblical and theological understanding, whilst allowing for the exploration of a range of world religions and non-religious worldviews, as required by the Wiltshire syllabus.

Curriculum Design

Curriculum Intent

Our RW curriculum:

- Is ambitious, ensuring that all pupils, including those with SEND and disadvantaged pupils, develop deep and secure understanding.
- Is rooted in the **Kapow Primary Religion and Worldviews** scheme, coherently structured and fully mapped to the Wiltshire Locally Agreed Syllabus.
- Is sequenced to enable knowledge progression and revisiting of key theological, philosophical and social concepts over time.
- Builds pupils' disciplinary knowledge and understanding of methods from theology, philosophy and human/social sciences.
- Supports the holistic development of the child in line with **SIAMS Flourishing Together vision** and the **Ofsted EIF (2025)**.

Curriculum Implementation

RW is taught weekly across all year groups, supplemented by whole-school collective worship, special focus days and community links. Lessons are inclusive, dialogical and engaging. Teachers use the Kapow curriculum and follow a progression map aligned to the Wiltshire syllabus.

We use three main disciplinary lenses:

- **Theological** – Exploring beliefs, texts and practices from within traditions.
- **Philosophical** – Asking big questions about truth, meaning and morality.
- **Human/Social Sciences** – Understanding lived religion and worldviews in context.

Our teaching encourages debate, self-reflection and respectful exploration of identity and diversity, cultivating pupils' compassion, curiosity and courage.

Curriculum Impact

We evaluate the impact of our curriculum through:

- Ongoing formative assessment within lessons.
- Summative assessments
- Monitoring of curriculum coverage and progression against intent.
- SIAMS preparation and SIAMS self-evaluation linked to Strand 7.

Pupils will demonstrate:

- Secure knowledge of key beliefs, practices and worldviews.
- The ability to ask and respond to challenging questions.
- Increased religious literacy and intercultural understanding.
- Deep personal insight and respect for others' beliefs and values.

Role of Worship and Spirituality

Collective worship complements RW teaching by fostering the spiritual development of all pupils. The parable of the mustard seed is a central metaphor in our school's worship themes, encouraging children to grow in faith, understanding and community through compassion, curiosity and courage.

Inclusion and Equality

We are committed to providing a high-quality RW education for all pupils, in line with the Equality Act 2010 and DfE guidance on inclusion. Teaching is adapted to meet the needs of:

- Pupils with SEND
- EAL learners
- Learners of all faiths and none

An inclusive RW curriculum ensures that all pupils see their identities reflected and respected. It supports the Protected Characteristics as defined in the Equality Act and contributes to pupils' understanding of British Values.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The delivery and effectiveness of RW is monitored by:

- The RW Subject Leader
- Link Governor for RW

Monitoring activities include lesson observations, book scrutiny, learning walks, pupil voice and staff audits. Evaluation of impact is shared with governors, and the policy is reviewed biennially as part of the wider curriculum review cycle.

Staff Development

Teachers receive regular training in RE pedagogy and subject knowledge through:

- Kapow CPD materials
- Diocesan training and support
- In-school CPD and professional learning communities

We actively seek to develop staff confidence in delivering high-quality RW education and in understanding the distinctiveness of Church of England school values in a plural society.

Parental Rights and Community Engagement

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from RE under Section 71 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. In line with current DfE guidance, we aim to work

collaboratively with parents to deliver an inclusive and sensitive curriculum and reduce recourse to withdrawal.

We foster strong community links with:

- Local churches and faith leaders
- Interfaith initiatives and charities
- Cultural visits to places of worship

Conclusion

At our school, Religion and Worldviews is a vital subject that nurtures children's understanding of the world around them and their place within it. Just as the mustard seed grew into a great tree, so we aspire to enable all pupils to grow in wisdom, faith, respect and action, grounded in our core values of compassion, curiosity and courage.