

Hazlemere Church of England Combined School



Religious Education Policy

Year 2026 – 2028

***“Encourage one another and build one another up”
1 Thessalonians 5:11***

Headteacher

Signed on behalf of Governing body

Last reviewed: March 2026

Next reviewed: March 2028



Our Theologically-Rooted Christian Vision

***“Encourage one another and build one another up”
1 Thessalonians 5:11***

At Hazlemere Church of England School, RE plays a central role in expressing the theologically rooted Christian vision of the school. RE reflects the ethos and school values that are held and promotes understanding of people of all faiths and worldviews, whether religious or not. RE has the same high status as any other subject and contributes to the overall development of our pupils from all backgrounds and traditions.

The vision of our staff and governors and all involved in our school, is that we uplift and support each other to be the best versions of ourselves; to enable one another to flourish and to use our talents to serve and praise God.

Looking around our school, one can be in awe of how God has bestowed each one of us with a special gift. Some already know what that is; some need encouragement to unlock it.

Our broad and balanced curriculum places equal emphasis on all areas of learning, because we know, within our context, there are children who flourish in aspects other than Maths or English, or have passions and interests that can be shared and celebrated. We see our role as providing a well-rounded education which enables each and every child to flourish academically and physically, emotionally and spiritually, socially and morally.

As a Church school, the Bible and its teaching create the inspiration for all aspects of our work. Our Vision is inspired by Paul's words recorded in his first letter to the Thessalonians (*1 Thessalonians 5:11*)

'Encourage one another and build one another up'

At Hazlemere Church of England school, our six school values are the pillars that support our school vision. Each value is underpinned by the Christian Faith and we focus on one particular value per half-term. It is our hope that children, families and colleagues will take this with them as they continue their journey through life, encouraging others along the way.

Ambition Honesty Kindness Love Perseverance Respect

Legal Position of Religious Education

Hazlemere Church of England School provides RE provision for all registered pupils at the school, while also reflecting the requirements of the Church of England's Statement of Entitlement for Religious Education. The statutory section 48 (SIAMS) inspection will evaluate RE and the way that it expresses the Christian vision of the school and look for evidence of the quality of teaching, progress and assessment, alongside the priority, provision and profile of RE as expressed through the quality of the curriculum. Religious education has the same status and importance as any other subject and, as such, the same high standards are applied to this as to other subjects.

Intent

At Hazlemere Church of England School, our aim is to develop curiosity and spirituality in pupils and equip them for future learning about, as well as enabling them to make sense of, the complex world of religious and non-religious worldviews.

Pupils will have the opportunity to explore the wider concept of what a worldview is and how people reach these ideas. We aim to provide our children with religious literacy where they will develop their knowledge and understanding of Christianity, other religious traditions and worldviews and explore their responses to life's challenges. This gives pupils the knowledge and skills to flourish both within their own community and as members of a diverse and global society.

The purpose of RE is to teach children about the religious and non-religious worldviews that they will encounter in modern Britain and enable them to engage in meaningful and considered dialogue with those of all faiths and worldviews. Through the teaching of Religious Education, children will:

- Know about and understand Christianity as a diverse global living faith through the exploration of core beliefs using an approach that critically engages with biblical text.
- Gain knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews appreciating diversity, continuity and change within the religions and worldviews being studied.
- Engage with challenging questions of meaning and purpose raised by human existence and experience.
- Recognise the concept of religion and its continuing influence on Britain's cultural heritage and in the lives of individuals and societies in different times, cultures and places.
- To explore their own religious, spiritual and philosophical ways of living, believing and thinking.

Implementation

At Hazlemere Church of England School, we have created our own curriculum using a variety of sources, including the Buckinghamshire Syllabus (2017), the Oxford Diocese scheme of work (2019) and Understanding Christianity resources. Our curriculum offers a broad and balanced enquiry into a range of religions and world views.

Throughout each unit every half-term, the children will be presented with an enquiry question. They may start by exploring and identifying their own meaning to the question by reflecting on their own experiences and self-concepts. Children will then have the opportunity to investigate, reflect and respond to different religions or worldviews responses to the question, before applying this by giving an informed and justified response to the enquiry question.

Across the school, all year groups will cover three units with a Christianity focus (at least 50% of the RE curriculum). Key concepts will be revisited on a spiral curriculum. Children will then explore further one other religion and/or worldview;

- Key Stage 1 – Judaism
- Lower Key Stage 2 – Hinduism
- Upper Key Stage 2 – Islam and Humanism

In the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), learning is pupil-initiated and children encounter a range of traditions and world views. This includes specific planned activities (e.g. on festivals, special places) for developing children's knowledge and understanding of religious beliefs (e.g. through circle time, show and tell and story-time, as well as unplanned, child-initiated opportunities and every day routines).

At Hazlemere Church of England School, we value all religious and non-religious views and therefore the children have the opportunity to explore beliefs through carefully planned visits, visitors, assemblies and specialist days.

Impact

All pupils will leave Hazlemere Church of England School, equipped with the knowledge and skills to flourish both within their own community and as members of a diverse and global society. A fostered sense of curiosity and spirituality in **all** pupils will equip them for future learning about, as well as enabling them to make sense of, the complex world of religious and non-religious worldviews. Pupils will have a safe space to explore their own religious, spiritual and/or philosophical ways of seeing, living and thinking. Built upon their foundational knowledge, children will develop their disciplinary skills; in order to question, analyse, and evaluate the world around them. Pupils will be able to appreciate and celebrate diversity, recognising beliefs, values and practices in common and maintaining a respect for shared human values that can be experienced, expressed and responded to in diverse ways.

Assessment in Religious Education

Children's learning and understanding is assessed formatively throughout the teaching of RE, through observation of children at work, by listening to children's responses and marking children's ongoing work in books. At the end of each topic class teachers assess the work of each child according to age appropriate expectations and against the non-negotiable knowledge building blocks for that unit of work. Each class also records evidence of learning and discussion in their own 'Class RE book', allowing for collaborative and creative opportunities and in depth, reflective discussions.

Monitoring and Self-Evaluation

The school's provision for Religious Education forms part of the ongoing evaluation schedule by the governing body. The school uses the SIAMS toolkit to support its self-evaluation of the impact of RE teaching.

The RE subject leader and SLT will monitor teaching and learning in RE in accordance with school policy.

The RE subject leader will observe teaching through learning walks, conduct book and planning reviews and pupil interviews when appropriate to assess the quality of teaching and learning. The headteacher and governors will ensure that adequate monitoring takes place and that the impact of such activity is assessed.

Religious Education is regularly reviewed to ensure pupil entitlement to the National Curriculum and the effectiveness of teaching and learning, in order to provide support for the development of the subject where appropriate.

Timetable

The Religious Education curriculum at Hazlemere Church of England School is taught in dedicated lessons/blocks/cross-curricular settings as appropriate, accounting for between 5% and 10%. This dedicated time is separate to the time given to Collective Worship. In KS1 this equates to approximately 36 hours per year; in KS2 it is 45 hours per year. These lessons contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils, which is a core principle of the education provided by Hazlemere Church of England School.

Right of Withdrawal

Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from Religious Education and collective worship, as set out in the Education Act 1944 and subsequent legislation. Any request to withdraw will be granted without delay and parents are not required to give reasons for their decision.

Hazlemere is a Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School where Christian values and principles underpin the whole curriculum and we encourage all members of our school community to participate in Religious Education and collective worship.

Where a request to withdraw is made, the school may offer to meet with parents to discuss their decision and to explain the school's approach, but this will only take place after the right of withdrawal has been confirmed and will be entirely optional.

