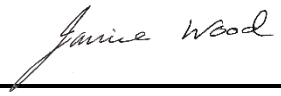
THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Norwich

Transformed by Christ
Prayerful Pastoral Prophetic

Carleton Rode & Forncett St. Peter CEVA Primary Federation

Carleton Rode and Forncett C.E.V.A. Primary Schools' ethos is founded on the belief that we should love our neighbour as we love ourselves and show this by treating others as we would like to be treated.

Religious Education & Worldviews Policy

Formally adopted by the Governing Board of	**Carleton Rode & Forncett St. Peter CEVA Primary Federation**
On:	**October 2026**
Review due:	**October 2027**
Signed by Chair of Governors: **J Wood**	
Signed by Executive Head: **C Richards**	

Summary of Changes

The model policy has been revised to reflect these changes to the statutory guidance as outlined below.

Page Ref.	Section	Amendment	Date of Change
All		Policy has been heavily re-written so not appropriate to include amendment history – treat as new	June 2026
Pg 3	Aims	Changed date to 2026	June 2026
pg3/4	Aims	Removed previous aims.	June 2026
Pg4	Aims	New aims taken from the Church of England Statement of Entitlement 2026 inserted to replace previous aims.	June 2026
Pg5	Curriculum	Part of the sentences regarding EYFS removed and replaced with new sentences.	June 2026
pg5	Curriculum	Removed 2019 and replaced with 2026	
Pg7	The Right of Withdrawal from RE	Added paragraph starting Immediate withdrawal will be ..... Removed sentence indicated We would ask... in response to NSE Guidance 2026.	June 2026
pg8	Managing the right for withdrawal	Added two additional bullet points at the start of this section in response to NSE Guidance 2026.	June 2026
pg8	Managing the right for withdrawal	Added a further bullet point before the last two in this section in response to NSE Guidance 2026.	June 2026
pg9	Parent and Community Involvement	Added sentences to start of this section in response to NSE Guidance 2026.	June 2026

Roles and Accountabilities

The Diocese of Norwich provides this policy as an exemplar for Church of England schools in the diocese whose governing body is accountable for all policies across its school(s) or federation. All policies whether relating to an individual school or federation will be written and implemented in line with our ethos and values as articulated in the schools theologically Christian vision. We are committed to the provision of high quality education in the context of the Christian values of service, thankfulness and humility where individuals are valued, aspirations are high, hope is nurtured, and talents released.

School / Federation Vision

We aspire for all individuals to grow as children of God, to be the best they can be. We want children to have respect for themselves and each other, along with a wonder and curiosity for God's creation.
Love your neighbour as you love yourself.
Matthew 22:39

Our Christian vision reflects the ambition of the school community to care for others and achieve excellence.

RE Policy Statement

Religious education is unique in the academy curriculum in that it is neither a core subject nor a foundation subject but the 1988 Education Act states that 'Religious Education has equal standing in relation to core subjects of the National Curriculum in that it is compulsory for all registered pupils'.

Our provision of RE must be in accordance with the Trust Deed of each the schools in the federation. The governors have decided, following advice from the diocese, to adopt the principles of the Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education (*Norfolk*) and supplement this with material from the Diocese.

Each Church of England school or academy is inspected under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005, and it will be inspected under its designation as a Voluntary Controlled or Voluntary Aided school. Religious education is reported on through this inspection.

Aims

The broad aims of religious education (RE) are set out within the locally agreed syllabus and the Church of England Education Office Statement of Entitlement (2026). The purpose of religious education in all schools and academies is to promote religious literacy. By this we mean that pupils are able to hold balanced and well-informed conversations about religion, worldviews and belief.

As stated in the RE Statement of Entitlement (2026), RE should enable all pupils in a Church school 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.

• Grapple with questions of meaning and purpose raised by human existence and experience.

• 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.

Curriculum

The curriculum for RE is designed to ensure religious literacy lies at the heart. A multi-disciplinary approach to curriculum design provides a balance between theology, philosophy and the human/social sciences.

Theology:	This examines where beliefs come from, how they have changed over time, how they are applied differently in different contexts and how they relate to each other. For pupils we may describe this as *thinking through believing.*
Philosophy:	This is about finding out how and whether things make sense. It deals with questions of morality and ethics. It takes seriously questions about reality, knowledge and existence. For pupils we may describe this as *thinking through thinking.*
Human/Social sciences:	This explores the diverse ways in which people practice their beliefs, both now and in the past. It engages with the impact of beliefs on individuals, communities and societies. For pupils we may describe this as *thinking through living.*

These three disciplines provide lenses through which each enquiry question is approached.

In accordance with the structure of the locally agreed syllabus we have agreed that:

- At KS 1 pupils study primarily Christianity and Judaism, with reference made to other principal religions, beliefs and worldviews.

- At KS 2 pupils study primarily Christianity, Islam and Hinduism, with reference made to other principal religions, beliefs and worldview.

- RE is a statutory expectation within EYFS however it does not necessarily need to be taught as a discrete subject. The diocese strongly recommends that schools adopt the local agreed syllabus. There is an expectation that RE is also encountered in EYFS through continuous provision. The multi-disciplines will be introduced, and Christianity will primarily be studied, some schools and academies may choose to also include festivals from other major religions e.g. Diwali.

In accordance with the Statement of Entitlement (2026), at least 51% of curriculum time (the majority) is allocated to the teaching of Christianity. This entitlement is met both through the weekly or blocked teaching of RE, and through additional RE days which focus on an aspect of the Christian Faith.

The use of the resource *Understanding Christianity* particularly supports the development of the theological perspective.

It is expected that each academy has developed a clear curriculum map for Religious education that identifies the multi-disciplines, the enquiry big questions and plots the substantive knowledge and ways of knowing. This will provide a systematic and progressive curriculum that develop in complexity and builds on prior learning experiences in a meaningful way. It will provide deeper learning rather than excessive subject content.

Teaching RE

Religious education uses an enquiry-based approach to learning. This is based on the best practice framework in the Norfolk/Suffolk agreed syllabus. This approach enables pupils to focus on an enquiry

question which explores aspects of the theological, philosophical and human/social sciences. A range of teaching strategies are used to ensure learning is challenging and relevant including the use of art, music, thinking skills, artefacts and stories.

Where possible we want our pupils to have opportunities to encounter local faith communities through visits to local places of worship or visits from members of local faith communities. Remote Learning will utilise online resources to facilitate virtual visits or visitors to ensure high quality RE is still being delivered.

Assessment

Pupils are assessed in terms of how they are making progress in relation to the theological, philosophical and human/social sciences disciplines within RE. In broad terms the following principles have been applied to each aspect in terms of what it means to become more religiously literate:

- Extending knowledge and understanding from the concrete and familiar to the abstract and complex
- Moving from simple ideas and beliefs/concepts to making connections between them and placing these within a bigger picture or meta-narrative
- Demonstrating increasing layers of interpretation of religion, religions, beliefs and worldviews through engagement with a broadening and increasingly complex range of information
- Showing an increasing ability to critically question and form coherent, logical arguments, including increasing recognition of divergences of opinion about and the controversial nature of religion and belief
- Expressing a broadening understanding of diversity in terms of the nature of religion, religions and worldviews

Pupils are assessed using age-related expectations which are common across all Diocese of Norwich schools and academies. This is done in a variety of ways e.g. through written activities, role play, art work, discussion… Progress is tracked using Pupil Asset (from October 2018).

Moderation of pupils RE work is a recommended annual activity for all Church schools in the Diocese of Norwich. Annual moderation of pupil outcomes determines a robust system for benchmarking and exemplifying standards in RE across the trust. It allows schools and academies to collaborate, evaluate and develop practice in a supportive manner.

Assessment is regarded as an integral part of teaching and learning and is a continuous process. It is the responsibility of the class teacher to assess all pupils in their class. We assess the children in order to ensure that they primarily get better at RE, we also want to ensure they are making good progress in this subject and use it to plan future work.

In addition, pupils are encouraged to use self-assessment to evaluate their own knowledge and understanding. A comment about their progress is made in the annual report to parents.

Monitoring & Evaluation

The co-ordinator will monitor RE provision and standards within the academy through observation, looking at work, talking to children and reviewing the curriculum with staff.

The co-ordinator will consider the professional development needs of the Federation's staff through informal discussion, staff surveys and performance management (where appropriate). This is to ensure staff feel they hold a good subject knowledge and are confident to deliver the content and concepts of the RE curriculum in their academy.

The co-ordinator is responsible for contributing to the Federation's self-evaluation process. In addition, the governing body monitor the role of religious education in upholding the Trust Deed of each school and its contribution to the Christian ethos of the school.

Responsibilities for RE within each academy (Principal/Head teachers and Governors)

As well as fulfilling their legal obligations, the local governing body and Principal/head teacher should also make sure that:

- all pupils make progress in achieving the aims of the RE curriculum
- the subject is well led and effectively managed
- standards and achievement in RE and the quality of the provision are subject to regular and effective self-evaluation
- those teaching RE are suitably qualified and trained in the subject and have regular and effective opportunities for CPD
- where appropriate, pupils have opportunities to take courses leading to an accredited qualification in the subject
- clear information is provided on the school website about the RE curriculum
- RE is resourced, staffed and timetabled so that the academy can fulfil its legal obligations on RE and pupils can make good progress
- where there are insufficient teachers in an academy who are prepared to teach RE, the principal/ head teacher ensures that pupils receive their entitlement to RE. In these circumstances, head teachers might wish to seek advice from the Diocese.
- the Federation is working on securing the Religious Education Quality Mark (REQM) as part of the robust self-evaluation of RE in the academy.

The Right of Withdrawal From RE

Our Federation is an inclusive community but recognise that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from religious education on the grounds of conscience. However, the right of withdrawal does not extend to other areas of the curriculum when, as may happen on occasion, spontaneous questions on religious matters are raised by pupils or there are issues related to religion that arise in other subjects such as history or citizenship.

Immediate withdrawal will be granted but following a withdrawal, we will offer parents an optional discussion with the headteacher to explore if any appropriate accommodations might be made. Should parents take up the offer of a discussion, the school may seek to establish the religious issues about which the parent objects to their child being taught. Discussion may include the practical implications of withdrawal and the circumstances in which it may be reasonable to accommodate their wishes. Practical examples of how a school may reassure a parent who has withdrawn their child may include inviting the parent to observe a RE lesson, discussing curriculum documents and discussing the aims of RE in your school with them.

Each school will record any requests of withdrawal from RE and the reasons for this as they are required to report this as part of the Section 48 inspection process.

Managing the right of withdrawal

- When dealing with a withdrawal, the school should describe to the parents what alternative arrangements will be made for their child. It is important that good records are kept of the parent/carer(s)' request and the associated actions.
- The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) requires schools to 'eliminate discrimination… advance equality… foster good relations.'5 RE which is 'objective, critical and pluralistic' is well-placed to support the development of meaningful dialogue and respect within the school community – across faiths, worldviews, cultures and beliefs – and enables pupils to understand how to advocate for one another in creating a culture which eliminates discrimination and advances equality. Where possible, all pupils should have access to opportunities to learn about this, even if withdrawn from RE and must not be stigmatised by the act of withdrawal.
  - Parents should be made aware of its learning objectives and what is covered in the RE curriculum and should be given the opportunity to discuss this, if they wish.
  - Each academy may also wish to review such a request each year, in discussion with the parents.
  - The use of the right to withdraw should be at the instigation of parents, and it should be made clear whether it is from the whole of the subject or specific parts of it. No reasons need be given.
  - Parents have the right to choose whether or not to withdraw their child from RE without influence from the academy, although an academy should ensure that parents or carers are informed of this right and are aware of the educational objectives and content of the RE syllabus. In this way, parents can make an informed decision.
  - Where parents have requested that their child is withdrawn, their right must be respected, and where RE is integrated in the curriculum, the academy will need to discuss the arrangements with the parents or carers to explore how the child's withdrawal can be best accommodated.
  - If pupils are withdrawn from RE, schools and academies have a duty to supervise them, though not to provide additional teaching or to incur extra cost. Pupils will usually remain on academy premises.
  - Where a pupil has been withdrawn, the law provides for alternative arrangements to be made for RE of the kind the parent wants the pupil to receive. This RE could be provided at the academy in question, or the pupil could be sent to another academy where suitable RE is provided if this is reasonably convenient.
  - Withdrawal from RE takes place during the school day and so pupils do not need to be at home to be withdrawn. Therefore, any absence related to avoidance of RE (i.e. parents/carers keeping their children at home to avoid an RE lesson or visit to a place of worship) should be recorded as an unauthorised absence, since it is unnecessary for the pupil to be kept at home during these times.
  - If neither approach is practicable, outside arrangements can be made to provide the pupil with the kind of RE that the parent wants, and the pupil may be withdrawn from academy for a reasonable period of time to allow them to attend this external RE.
  - Outside arrangements for RE are allowed as long as the LA is satisfied that any interference with the pupil's attendance at academy resulting from the withdrawal will affect only the start or end of an academy session.

Role of the RE Leader

- To ensure that the RE policy is implemented and to keep up to date with reviews.
- To have oversight of the RE curriculum and keep up to date with local and national changes.
- To monitor, review and update resources.
- To monitor pupil progress and achievement.
- To maintain and build priorities set by the academy.
- To develop links with the Church and Diocese.
- To coach, mentor and support teachers in developing their strengths in teaching RE, including planning, arranging and delivering CPD as appropriate.
- To liaise with parents to ensure all children receive their entitlement.
- To undertake the duties and responsibilities set out in the RE Subject Leader Job Description and review this annually with senior leaders as part of their performance management.

Entitlement and Inclusion - EAL, SEN, More Able

All children are entitled to access a broad and balanced curriculum at an appropriate level. Teachers should include a range of teaching styles and groupings to allow all children to make progress. Every child should be given opportunity to develop their skills independently and in groups, enhancing their own confidence and self–esteem.

Resources

There is a wide range of resources to support the teaching of RE in Diocese of Norwich schools and academies. Each school/ academy has its own resources, and some are also available centrally at the Diocesan Resource Centre or through the Diocese website.

Parental and Community Involvement

Wherever possible, the school should find ways to communicate with parents/ carers about the value of RE and the approach taken within the school to ensure it meets the needs of all pupils. For example, at Curriculum meetings or in induction booklets.
Parents are encouraged to involve themselves in RE within each academy. Parents are invited into the academy to look at their children's work, and a report on their child's standard and progress in RE is given out annually. The community is encouraged to support the teaching of RE through visits and visitors, eg: the children visit the church to learn about concepts such as salvation.

Professional Development

Whole staff and individual training needs will be identified through the Federation's self-evaluation process and staff appraisal. The aspiration is for every school and academy in the Diocese of Norwich to achieve the RE Quality Mark as an external validation of the quality of RE being provided.

The contribution RE makes to other curriculum aims

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
Section 78 (1) of the 2002 Education Act states that all pupils should follow a balanced and broadly based curriculum which 'promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, social, mental and physical development of pupils and of society, and prepares pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life'. Examining and exploring religions and beliefs, through the distinct knowledge, understanding and skills contained in RE, is essential to achieving these aims. Exploring the concepts of religion and belief and their roles in the spiritual, moral and cultural lives of people in a diverse society helps individuals develop moral awareness and social understanding.

Personal development and well-being
RE plays an important role in preparing pupils for adult life, employment and lifelong learning. It helps children and young people become successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens. It gives them the knowledge, skills and understanding to discern and value truth and goodness, strengthening their capacity for making moral judgements and for evaluating different types of commitment to make positive and healthy choices.

Community cohesion
RE makes an important contribution promoting community cohesion. It provides a key context to develop young people's understanding and appreciation of diversity, to promote shared values and to challenge racism and discrimination. Effective RE will promote community cohesion at each of these four levels.

The academy community
RE provides a positive context within which the diversity of cultures, beliefs and values can be celebrated and explored.

The community within which the academy is located
RE provides opportunities to investigate patterns of diversity of religion and belief and forge links with different groups in the local area.

The UK community
Aa major focus of RE is the study of diversity of religion and belief in the UK and how this influences national life.

The global community
RE involves the study of matters of global significance recognising the diversity of religion and belief and its impact on world issues.

RE subject matter gives particular opportunities to promote an ethos of respect for others, challenge stereotypes and build understanding of other cultures and beliefs. This contributes to promoting a positive and inclusive academy ethos that champions democratic values and human rights**.** RE has a strong link with wider projects such as the Global Neighbours Scheme that Diocese church schools and academies are encouraged to be engaged with.

Monitoring & Review

The implementation and impact of the policy will be evaluated through the Federation's self-evaluation processes. The policy will be reviewed every three years.

Links to Other Policies

- Teaching & Learning Policy
- Collective Worship