



# Fingringhoe

## Church of England (VA) Primary School

### Religious Education (RE) Policy

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At Fingringhoe Church of England (VA) Primary School, our vision is to cultivate courageous, caring and compassionate individuals who are not only academically strong but also spiritually enriched and socially responsible. We aspire to create a nurturing and inspiring environment that promotes a sense of community, and instils responsibility in our students. By embodying Christian values, academic excellence, and a commitment to service, we empower our young learners to become the compassionate leaders and change-makers of tomorrow.

*'Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.'* ~Joshua 1:9

#### 1. Introduction

At Fingringhoe Church of England (VA) Primary School, RE should enable all pupils to flourish and live life in all its fullness, educating for dignity and respect, and encouraging all to live well together. We strive for a *'commitment to generous hospitality, being true to our underpinning of faith, but with a deep respect for the integrity of other religious traditions (and worldviews) and for the religious freedom of each person'* (Church of England Vision for Education: Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good, 2016)

RE at Fingringhoe Church of England (VA) Primary School is a high priority for our leadership team and governing board. We aim to ensure that RE is intrinsic to the outworking of our

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school's Christian vision. We believe that RE has an important role in reflecting and conveying the distinctively Christian vision and character of our school, as well as recognising RE as a distinctive academic subject and its importance within the curriculum offered to all pupils.

### 2. **RE in a Church of England School**

Fingringhoe Church of England (VA) Primary School supports the following aims and objectives of Religious Education taken from Religious Education in Church of England Schools 'A Statement of Entitlement' (February 2019)

- To 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.
- To gain knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews appreciating diversity, continuity and change within the religions and worldviews being studied.
- To engage with challenging questions of meaning and purpose raised by human existence and experience.
- To 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 our own religious, spiritual and philosophical ways of living, believing and thinking.

### 3. **Legal Requirements**

The 1988 Education Act states that 'Religious Education has equal standing in relation to core subjects of the National Curriculum and that it is compulsory for all registered pupils.' Religious Education encompasses non-religious worldviews.

All registered pupils at Fingringhoe Church of England (VA) Primary School enjoy provision that ensures RE is a key part of our broad and balanced curriculum. The Headteacher and governing body ensure that sufficient time and resources are given to RE in school in order to meet statutory requirements.

Statutory requirements for Religious Education state that RE should reflect the fact that 'the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian whilst taking account of the



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teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain'. [1996 Act, Ch 56 Sect 375 (3)].

#### 4. **Requirements for Schools with a designated religious character**

##### Voluntary Aided (VA) schools

Religious Education is the responsibility of the governing body and must be in accordance with the Trust Deed of the school. At Fingringhoe Church of England (VA) Primary School, governors, in consultation with the Headteacher, have adopted the Locally Agreed Syllabus to meet the needs of our context and pupils. Governors ensure that the requirements of the syllabus selected are rigorous and in accordance with the school's Trust Deed and 'Religious Education in Church of England Schools: A Statement of Education 2019'.

#### 5. **Right of Withdrawal from RE**

The 1944 Education Act established the right of withdrawal of pupils from RE and this right remains unchanged. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from RE and pupils aged over 18 have the right to withdraw themselves from RE. As RE is central to the life and identity of Fingringhoe Church of England (VA) Primary School, the Headteacher will discuss with parents/carers any reasons they might have for exercising this right.

#### 6. **RE Expectations of Chelmsford Diocese Board of Education**

It is the expectation of the CDBE that all church schools will:

- Provide RE which enables pupils to hold balanced and informed conversations about religion and belief through a process of enquiry.
- Provide RE in line with expectations of the Church of England Statement of Entitlement<sup>1</sup> and these will be reflected in their own RE provision.

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-02/re-statement-of-entitlement-for-church-schools.pdf>



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- Provide a high quality RE curriculum which gives pupils the opportunity to understand the 'big story' of Christianity, including key concepts and the diversity of Christian practice across the globe.
- Adopt the Locally Agreed Syllabus as the basis for the RE curriculum content in all church schools and in VA schools further enhance with other high-quality resources recommended by the Diocese.

The Leadership Team at Fingringhoe Church of England (VA) Primary School engage with the proposed National Content Standard (Autumn 2023) as benchmark for what constitutes high quality in RE. <sup>2</sup>

### Curriculum time for Religious Education

At Fingringhoe Church of England (VA) Primary School, we ensure all pupils meet the aims and objectives stated in this policy at the appropriate level. The DBE strongly advises a minimum curriculum time for RE based upon the law and the RE Statement of Entitlement from the Church of England Education Office. At Fingringhoe Church of England (VA) Primary School we aim to be close to **10%** of curriculum time teaching RE and **no less than 5%**.

RE entitlement is separate from requirements for Collective worship. Collective worship **is not** considered curriculum time for RE or the teaching of RE.

### 7. Leadership and Management of RE

At Fingringhoe Church of England (VA) Primary School, the Headteacher and Governors recognise and engage with the concerns of Religious Education to ensure highly effective, consistent and appropriate development to meet expectations nationally and within the Diocese.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/rec/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/National-Content-Standard-for-Religious-Education-1st-Edition-September-2023.pdf>



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## **All members of the Governing Body at Fingringhoe Church of England (VA) Primary School:**

- Understand the distinctive role and purpose of RE in a Church School
- Are aware of the legal requirements including an awareness of the rights of withdrawal from RE and the procedures the school has in place
- Have strategic oversight of Religious Education with reference to the Statement of Entitlement 2019
- Are familiar with the RE syllabus and in our VA school, take responsibility for the adoption of the RE syllabus
- Monitor RE standards effectively
- Are fully informed and up to date with Diocesan advice and guidance

## **Headteacher / Senior Leaders at Fingringhoe Church of England (VA) Primary School:**

- Are fully informed about the requirements and expectations for RE – National, Local and Diocesan, including the requirements of the SIAMS Schedule
- In achieving the aims of the RE curriculum to ensure all pupils make progress
- Leadership of RE is effectively managed including provision for continuing professional development for RE subject leaders and others with responsibility for teaching RE to improve the quality.
- Follow the recommendation that the RE leader should ideally not be the Headteacher. At Fingringhoe Church of England (VA) Primary School, the Senior Teacher has responsibility for the role of RE subject leader.
- Monitor quality of provision, standards and achievement through effective and regular evaluation that leads to further improvement/ development.
- Ensures the school website provides clear information about RE provision.
- Engage with the Diocese and access Diocesan leadership support and training.
- Ensure that RE and/or aspects of being a Church School is included as an agenda item on Headteacher reports

## **RE Subject Leader at Fingringhoe Church of England (VA) Primary School:**

At Fingringhoe Church of England (VA) Primary School the RE Subject Leader role has a high profile within the school, including sufficient time and budget to ensure that all the legal requirements and Diocesan expectations are met, and that RE is inspiring, engaging, and challenging. At our school, the RE subject leader will:



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- Plan the RE curriculum in consultation with others, recognising the contribution of schemes of work to meet all expectations.
- Assist governors and the Headteacher in fulfilling their legal responsibilities with respect to RE and provide regular updates to the governing body.
- Work with colleagues, pupils and visitors to support the planning and delivery of RE
- Ensure curriculum time meets requirements for each year group within the school.
- Provide appropriate procedures for planning, assessment, recording and reporting in line with whole school policy.
- Ensure subject knowledge and expertise are kept up to date by means of regular training including, but not limited to, accessing Diocesan RE training and support opportunities regionally and nationally.
- Disseminate information to ensure that all staff receive adequate training in the teaching and expectations of RE.
- Evaluate and review provision for RE with governors and staff regularly.
- Ensure, together with the Headteacher, that the expectations set out in the Church of England Statement of Entitlement for RE are implemented.

## Implementation of Policy

The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of all those planning and leading RE.

## Review

This policy will be reviewed every two years.

Written By:	<b>Hannah Coyle - Headteacher / Jake Payne – Senior Teacher</b>
Adopted By:	<b>Fingringhoe Church of England (VA) Primary School Governing Body</b>
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