

Religious Education & Worldviews Policy

Ridgeway Farm CE Academy



Approved by:	Headteacher	Date: November 2022
Last reviewed on:	September 2025	
Next review due by:	September 2027	

Vision: Believe, Learn, Grow – Growing together as part of God’s family

1. Vision and Rationale

At Ridgeway Farm CE Academy, Religion and Worldviews (RE) is central to how our theologically rooted Christian vision is lived out in practice. Our vision is for every child to *believe in themselves, love learning and grow together as part of God’s family*. RE supports pupils to flourish as reflective, compassionate and thoughtful individuals, rooted in dignity, belonging and hope.

We believe that every child is uniquely created and deeply valued by God. RE enables pupils to explore meaning, belief, identity and purpose, and to grow in wisdom, empathy and respect. It is not a bolt-on subject but a core expression of our Christian distinctiveness and our commitment to enabling all pupils to live life in all its fullness (John 10:10).

RE at Ridgeway Farm is inclusive and academically rigorous. It supports pupils of all faiths and none to develop secure knowledge, ask big questions and engage thoughtfully with a diverse range of religious and non-religious worldviews.

2. Spirituality and RE

RE is a key driver of spiritual development at Ridgeway Farm and is aligned with our shared understanding of spirituality:

Spirituality is the way we help children to wonder, reflect and ask big questions about life; to understand themselves and others; to experience joy, hope and belonging; and to recognise that they are part of something bigger than themselves.

Through RE, pupils are supported to develop spirituality across four relational dimensions:

- Relationship with self – identity, reflection, emotions, resilience
- Relationship with others – empathy, respect, forgiveness, justice
- Relationship with the world – awe, wonder, responsibility for creation
- Relationship with God – understanding Christian belief, prayer, Bible, worship

RE creates regular, safe space for reflection, discussion and meaning making, supporting pupils to articulate their own beliefs and values while respecting difference.

3. Aims of Religion & Worldviews (RE)

RE at Ridgeway Farm aims to:

- Enable pupils to understand Christianity as a diverse, living faith
- Develop theological literacy and respectful religious language

- Support pupils to explore big questions of meaning, belief and purpose
- Foster respect, empathy and understanding of difference
- Develop pupils' ability to think critically, reflect deeply and discuss sensitively
- Support pupils to grow in wisdom, compassion and moral awareness
- Strengthen pupils' understanding of how beliefs shape identity, choices and community life
- Contribute to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development

4. Legal Framework and Church of England Expectations

RE is taught in accordance with:

- The Church of England Statement of Entitlement for Religious Education
- The Diocese of Bristol expectations
- The Swindon Agreed Syllabus
- Statutory requirements for RE in Church of England schools

Parents/carers have the legal right to withdraw their child from RE. We respectfully ask that any request for withdrawal is discussed with the Headteacher in advance and confirmed in writing. Alternative provision will be made.

5. Curriculum Design

The RE curriculum at Ridgeway Farm is carefully structured, progressive and ambitious. It reflects our Christian foundation while serving the whole community

We use:

- Understanding Christianity as the core scheme for Christianity
- The Swindon Agreed Syllabus for the teaching of other religions and worldviews

Pupils learn about Christianity in depth and also study other worldviews, including:

- Judaism
- Islam
- Hinduism
- Humanism

Learning is sequenced so that knowledge, understanding and theological concepts deepen over time. RE is taught weekly in every class and is valued equally alongside core subjects.

The curriculum reflects a person-centred approach, ensuring pupils understand that within any religion or worldview there is diversity of belief and practice. This supports pupils to avoid stereotypes and develop respectful, nuanced understanding.

6. Teaching and Learning

Teaching in RE:

- Encourages dialogue, questioning and reflection
- Uses drama, art, music, storytelling and outdoor learning
- Supports pupils to connect learning to real life and lived experience
- Develops oracy and reasoning through discussion and debate
- Creates a safe space for different views to be shared respectfully

RE lessons are inclusive and accessible to all learners. Teaching is adapted for pupils with SEND through scaffolded tasks, visuals, pre-teaching of vocabulary, alternative methods of recording and additional adult support where appropriate.

7. Enrichment and Experiences

RE is enriched through:

- Visits and visitors
- Church-led experiential learning (e.g. Christmas, Easter, Pentecost)
- Prayer spaces
- Themed days (e.g. Anti-Bullying Week, Mental Health Awareness)
- Theatre in Education experiences
- Whole-school reflection days

These experiences bring learning to life and help pupils make meaningful connections between belief, values and lived experience.

8. Assessment and Monitoring

Assessment in RE is purposeful and varied. This includes:

- Teacher assessment
- Pupil work in books
- Quizzes and retrieval practice
- Double-page spreads
- Pupil voice

Progress in RE is monitored with the same rigour as other subjects. The RE subject leader:

- Reviews planning and sequencing
- Visits lessons
- Samples pupil work
- Gathers pupil voice
- Evaluates impact

Foundation governors and diocesan partners provide challenge and support to ensure RE remains strong, theologically secure and impactful.

9. Leadership and Governance

The RE Subject Leader is responsible for:

- Curriculum development
- Staff support and CPD
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Supporting theological confidence

Foundation governors have oversight of:

- RE provision
- Christian distinctiveness
- SIAMS readiness

RE is protected as a core part of the school's Church of England foundation.

10. Inclusion and Respect

RE at Ridgeway Farm is:

- Inclusive – for pupils of all faiths and none
- Invitational – encouraging engagement without coercion
- Respectful – valuing difference and diversity

Pupils are supported to:

- Express their own views
- Listen carefully to others
- Disagree with kindness
- Develop empathy and understanding

11. Impact

The impact of RE is seen in pupils who:

- Can articulate Christian concepts and compare beliefs thoughtfully
- Show curiosity about faith, belief and meaning
- Respect difference and diversity
- Reflect on values and choices

- Demonstrate empathy, courage and justice in daily life

RE strengthens pupils' spiritual development, oracy, critical thinking and moral understanding, enabling them to flourish as confident, reflective members of God's family.

12. Review

This policy is reviewed regularly by school leaders and foundation governors to ensure it remains effective, theologically rooted and aligned with the school's Christian vision and SIAMS expectations.