January 2026

Bishop Monkton Church of England School
Religious Education Policy

Act justly, love kindness and walk humbly with God. Micah 6:8

Rationale

Our Religious Education curriculum is made up of units from Understanding Christianity and North Yorkshire Syllabus for Religious Education. It aims to provide the children with a rich and deep understanding of the Christian faith and what it means to be Christian as well as helping children to develop their knowledge of humankind's varied religions and beliefs. Children have the opportunity to explore practices, values, beliefs and lifestyles from across the world and are encouraged to engage in meaningful discussions and debates about God, life and humanity.

It is our intent that children are taught and encouraged to be open, sensitive, reflective and critical-minded when learning about and discussing religion and faith: this will enhance their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. We encourage the children to develop a broader outlook on life by offering them a wider vision of the world as well as learning about individuals and their community, and enable them to consider "What can we do for others?" Pupils are encouraged to discuss their religious, spiritual and/philosophical ideas in a safe environment.

The faith background of the staff and child's family is respected at all times, including respecting those with no faith. Children will recognise the right for people to hold different beliefs within an ethnically and socially diverse society.

Right to withdraw: Parents have the right to withdraw their children from RE on the grounds that they wish to provide their own religious education. (School Standards and Framework Act 1998 S71 (3)). It is good practice for parents to talk to the school if this is their intention, so that the aims and value of RE are clearly understood before school honour this right.

Aims:

- To enable pupils to know about and understand Christianity as a living faith that influences the lives of people worldwide and as the religion that has most shaped British culture and heritage.
- To enable pupils to know and understand about other major world religions and world views, their impact on society, culture and the wider world, enabling pupils to express ideas and insights.
- By the time pupils leave Bishop Monkton CE School the expectation is that all pupils are religiously literate and as a minimum are able to
    - Give a theologically informed and thoughtful account of Christianity as a living an diverse faith
    - Show an informed and respectful attitude to religions and world views in their search for God and meaning
    - Engage in meaningful and informed dialogue with those of other faiths and none
    - Reflect critically and responsibly on their own spiritual, philosophical and ethical convictions

Guidelines

1. Religious education is taught as part of the curriculum in a timetabled lesson. At least 5% of the curriculum time is given to RE.

2. The **North Yorkshire 2024-2029 agreed syllabus** and **Understanding Christianity** are used to develop schemes of work throughout both Key Stages. The North Yorkshire syllabus is divided into three key areas: believing, expressing and living. Understanding Christianity provides depth of learning about the Christian faith.

3. The RE curriculum should make a positive contribution to SMSC development.

4. **Assessment**
   Good teaching and learning will be shown through a variety of evidence, including discussion, photographs and written work. Assessment in RE is seen in its broadest sense and not limited to measurement and testing. By the end of each key stage, pupils are expected to know, apply and understand the content, skills and methods specified in the relevant programmes of study. Teachers are expected to keep end of unit assessment data in their assessment files but are encouraged to choose and use methods best suited to their class and age group to gather data and evidence for assessment.

5. Visitors to school and visits to places of worship are encouraged.

6. In **Key Stage 1** children learn about Christianity and two other faiths - Islam and Judaism. In **Key Stage 2** children build on their knowledge of Islam and Judaism, learn about Christianity in greater depth and are introduced to Hinduism and Humanism.

7. Children can explore and learn about religion using a range of learning strategies such as:

   - Handling artefacts
   - Exploring sacred texts
   - Using imaginative play or drama
   - Responding to images, games, stories, art, music and dance
   - Meeting visitors from local religious communities
   - Making visits to religious places of worship
   - Taking part in whole school events
   - Using ICT to explore religions
   - Debating and communicating

8. A variety of approaches should be used when planning activities. This will often be through discrete lessons, but also cross curricular focussed lessons and theme days.

Signed: Headteacher Sally A Cowling

Signed: Chair of Governors Ashlea Costelloe

Date: 2nd February 2026

Review Date: January 2027