The Church of England
Diocese of Ely

Religious Education in the Diocese of Ely

Intent
Implementation
Impact



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-SA-NC



RE within the Diocese of Ely

Introduction

The Diocese of Ely works closely with the local authority and SACRE to ensure that all schools (church and community) have the opportunity to deliver quality RE lessons as an academic subject.

The Diocese of Ely has secured funding to supply every church school with the foundation resources it needs to be able to deliver high quality RE across all religions.

The Church of England
Diocese of Ely

This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-SA-NC

Potential challenges for RE teaching

- Many primary teachers are non-specialists in RE.
- Many primary schools used Understanding Christianity as a resource, but had no set resource for world religions.
- Many schools did not have adequate detailed schemes of work for the delivery of world religions (Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Sikhism) and worldviews (Buddhism and Humanism).
- Some schools have had a superficial approach to world religions due to lack of specialist knowledge.
- RE takes up 5% of the curriculum.
- RE subject leadership, particularly in small schools, is predominantly held by non-specialists, who have responsibilities for additional subjects.
- RE is sometimes linked with History and Geography as a Humanities subject.
- RE taught in a cross-curricular way is not a substitute for discrete RE teaching.



RE within the Diocese of Ely - action plan

Luke 6:48 – building upon solid and secure curriculum foundations

I Thessalonians 5:11 – support and encouragement for each other

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 – collaboration and liaison with educational partners

The Church of England
Diocese of Ely

- Provide a set resource for World Religions (EP2020)
- Provide additional training and support in mixed SOW curriculum planning for RE Leads, including mixed year groups.
- Provide training and support in assessment for RE Leads
- Train two specialist RE teachers to be UC trainers
- Set up networks of RE leads / teachers across the diocese
- Promotion of RE as an academic subject
- Focus upon RE as part of S.48 inspections for all church schools (not just VA schools)
- Liaise with SACRE, Ely Cathedral and Church Schools of Cambridge in their RE Missions to ensure coverage and positive collaboration.

This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-SA-NC



In the Diocese of Ely, all curriculum subjects:

INTENT

- are underpinned by Christian values, aiming to inspire all children in their learning;
- enable children to explore the world, to discover new ideas and to flourish;
- provide opportunities for cross-curricular learning;
- are enriched with additional experiences which raise aspirations and make the most of local partnerships.

The Church of England
Diocese of Ely

This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-SA-NC



INTENT

In the Diocese of Ely Religious Education intends to:

- promote religious understanding of, respect for and openness to a wide range of religions and worldviews;
- increase religious literacy to support a child's ability to form critical, balanced, and reflective opinions and arguments;
- challenge all forms of discrimination, stereotyping and prejudice in order to promote equality;
- make clear links with statutory requirements for British Values education and Spiritual Moral Social and Cultural education;

The Church of England
Diocese of Ely



In the Diocese of Ely Religious Education intends to:

INTENT

- enable children to explore their own belief system, give them time to reflect, consider alternative worldviews and contemplate their own place in the world;
- provide opportunities for virtual or face-to-face encounters with people of faith and places of worship;
- follow statutory guidance regarding ratios of Christianity to World Faiths and Worldviews according to the formal designation of the school (academy or LA school) and according to the demographic structure of the communities they serve.

The Church of England
Diocese of Ely



The curriculum for RE aims to ensure that all pupils:

INTENT

A. know about and understand a range of religions and worldviews;
B. express ideas and insights about the nature, significance and impact of religions and worldviews;
C. gain and deploy the skills needed to engage seriously with religions and worldviews.

The Church of England
Diocese of Ely



INTENT

A. Know about and understand a range of religions and worldviews, so that they can:

- describe, explain and analyse beliefs and practices, recognising the diversity which exists within and between communities and amongst individuals;
- identify, investigate and respond to questions posed, and responses offered by some of the sources of wisdom found in religions and worldviews, encouraging children to be confident and able to ask relevant questions ;
- appreciate and appraise the nature, significance and impact of different ways of life and ways of expressing meaning. NATRE

The Church of England
Diocese of Ely



B. Express ideas and insights about the nature, significance and impact of religions and worldviews, so that they can:

INTENT

- explain reasonably their ideas about how beliefs, practices and forms of expression influence individuals and communities;
- express with increasing discernment their personal reflections and critical responses to questions and teachings about identity, diversity, meaning and value, including ethical issues;
- appreciate and appraise varied dimensions of religion or a worldview. NATRE

The Church of England
Diocese of Ely



C. Gain and deploy the skills needed to engage seriously with religions and worldviews, so that they can:

INTENT

- find out about and investigate key concepts and questions of belonging, meaning, purpose and truth, responding creatively;
- enquire into what enables different individuals and communities to live together respectfully and harmoniously for the wellbeing of all;
- articulate beliefs, values and commitments clearly in order to explain why they may be important in their own and other people's lives.

NATRE

The Church of England
Diocese of Ely

IMPLEMENTATION

In the Diocese of Ely, all schools have free choice in the implementation of the intent of RE teaching.

Curriculum may be designed in 50:50, 66:34 or 50%+ ratios according to the formal or former designation of the school or academy.



The Church of England
Diocese of Ely

IMPLEMENTATION

In the Diocese of Ely, all schools have access to the same foundation of quality teaching resources for all religions and worldviews:

- Understanding Christianity scheme of work and frieze;
- Emmanuel Project 2020 scheme of work and teaching resources for world religions (2020);



The Church of England
Diocese of Ely

IMPLEMENTATION

A bespoke and flexible approach is promoted within the diocese:

- flexible variety of long-term plans for VC / VA schools and academies to incorporate UC and EP within the parameters of the Locally Agreed Syllabus (Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and Rutland, Norfolk, Suffolk);
- UC / EP2020 / RE Co-ordinator training;
- Support from the Diocese of Ely Senior Officer for SIAMS, RE and Governance.
- Support from UC Trainers from Diocese of Ely schools and external EP2020 training.



The Church of England
Diocese of Ely

IMPLEMENTATION

Each school implements their RE curriculum according to their context, their trust deed and their formal school designation (or former designation for academies).

The curriculum should be well-structured and logically sequenced, building upon prior knowledge and hence showing clear progression of knowledge and skills over time.

Mixed year group curriculum plans may need additional work to ensure that progression and skills are appropriate for each year group.



The Church of England
Diocese of Ely



IMPACT STAFF

The impact of consistent resources across all religious and non-religious worldviews should facilitate the achievement of all the aims of RE teaching for all pupils regardless of the specialism of the RE teacher.

It should enable the development of more robust and consistent RE subject support for class teachers, as well as the professional development of those specialist RE teachers.

It should enable innovative and inspiring pedagogy to flourish across all schools with the creation and sharing of high-quality resources within professional learning networks of peers.

The Church of England
Diocese of Ely



IMPACT PUPILS

Attainment and progress in RE should be in line with national averages for English and written work should be of the same high-quality standard.

Pupil interest in RE as an academic subject should be high.

Pupils should be able to demonstrate religious literacy required to make measured and balanced arguments about religious topics.

The Church of England
Diocese of Ely



IMPACT PUPILS

Pupils should be able to remember more and know more about a wide range of religious and non-religious worldviews and beliefs, however this is assessed.

Pupils should be able to demonstrate an increasing age-appropriate ability to reflect upon and learn from religion.

The Church of England
Diocese of Ely

The Church of England
Diocese of Ely

Senior Officer for SIAMS / RE / Governance
Diocesan Board of Education
Caroline Vinall
07538 099289
caroline.vinall@elydiocese.org

