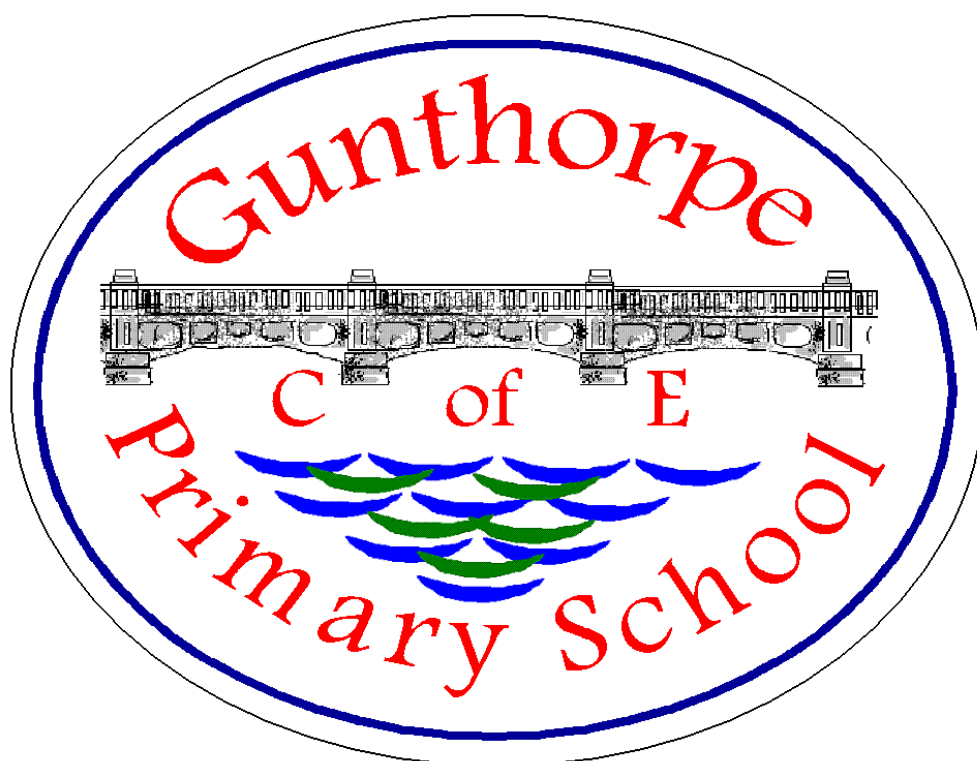




Religious Education Policy

Gunthorpe C of E Primary School

Our School Vision

At Gunthorpe, we always do our best and let our light shine. We do this by growing our understanding of the world that God created, our place in it, our value to it and our responsibility for it. We live this out through our Christian values of forgiveness, service, determination, respect and friendship.

Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven

Matthew 5:16

Introduction

At Gunthorpe C of E Primary School, Religious Education (RE) is central to our Christian vision and plays an important role in enabling pupils to flourish. RE enables children to explore big questions about meaning, belief, identity and belonging while developing an understanding of Christianity as a living faith and learning about a range of religious and non-religious worldviews.

RE in a Church of England school provides opportunities for children to understand what it means to be a religious believer in the world today and helps them understand how Christian beliefs inspire and underpin the values of the school community. At Gunthorpe, our Christian values of **forgiveness, service, determination, respect and friendship** are woven throughout RE, shaping discussion, reflection and understanding of how beliefs and worldviews influence the way people live. In line with our vision, we want children to grow in understanding of the world God created, their place within it, their value to it and their responsibility for it.

Aims

Religious Education at Gunthorpe School aims to:

- Help pupils encounter Christianity as a living faith that shapes lives, communities and the world today.
- Develop understanding and respect for different religions, worldviews and cultures, enabling pupils to live well together in a diverse society.
- Encourage pupils to ask deep questions about meaning, purpose, truth and belief, developing curiosity, reflection and spiritual awareness.
- Support pupils in recognising their own unique value and dignity as individuals created and loved by God.
- Enable pupils to explore how faith and beliefs influence actions, relationships and decisions.
- Foster wisdom, hope, compassion and courageous advocacy through thoughtful discussion and reflection on injustice, responsibility and service.
- Develop pupils' ability to think critically, express their ideas respectfully and make informed and balanced judgements.
- Create a safe and inclusive environment where all pupils feel heard, valued and empowered to let their light shine.

Implementation

Teaching and Learning

Religious Education at Gunthorpe School is taught in accordance with the legal requirements for Religious Education and reflects the Church of England Statement of Entitlement. As a Church school, RE is a statutory subject and a core part of the curriculum, playing a central role in expressing our Christian vision and enabling all pupils to flourish.

Through an enquiry-based approach, pupils are encouraged to explore big questions, think deeply and engage respectfully with different beliefs and worldviews. Learning develops pupils' religious literacy by helping them to understand theology, human experience and the ways faith and belief shape individuals, communities and society.

In line with the Church of England Statement of Entitlement, our curriculum:

- gives Christianity a central place, exploring Christian belief and practice in depth;
- enables pupils to learn about a range of religions and worldviews represented in Britain and the wider world;
- encourages pupils to reflect on questions of meaning, purpose and truth;
- develops respect, dignity and understanding within a diverse society.

Teachers use a range of strategies to engage and inspire pupils, including:

- questioning and discussion;
- storytelling and sacred texts;
- use of artefacts, images and multimedia;
- reflection and opportunities for spiritual development;
- creative activities, drama and debate;
- visits and visitors from faith communities.

RE lessons provide a safe and inclusive environment where pupils are encouraged to express their ideas thoughtfully, listen respectfully to others and develop confidence in their own voice. Learning is adapted to meet the needs of all pupils so that every child is supported to participate fully and let their light shine.

Curriculum

At Gunthorpe School, Religious Education is taught using the RE Today Primary Curriculum, which aligns with both the Nottinghamshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education (2026–2031) and *Understanding Christianity*. In line with the Church of England Statement of Entitlement, Christianity forms

the majority of the RE curriculum, alongside other world faiths (including but not limited to Judaism, Islam, Sikhism and Hinduism). RE is taught as a discrete subject and is timetabled weekly in line with statutory requirements for Church schools, ensuring at least 5% of curriculum time is dedicated to RE across the year.

In EYFS, RE is taught through carefully planned experiences linked to Understanding the World, Communication and Language, Personal, Social and Emotional Development and children's own experiences of belonging, celebration and wonder.

Assessment and Monitoring

Assessment in Religious Education is ongoing and forms part of daily classroom practice. Teachers assess pupils' understanding during lessons against clearly identified success criteria, using questioning, discussion and written outcomes to inform next steps in learning.

At the end of units of work, teachers complete RE Learning Ladders, which provide an overview of pupils' attainment and progress in relation to key knowledge and skills. This helps to ensure progression across the curriculum and supports accurate teacher judgements.

The RE subject leader monitors standards and progression through the collection and analysis of assessment information, including termly data relating to pupil attainment. This is used alongside book scrutiny, pupil voice and lesson monitoring to identify strengths and areas for development and to inform the ongoing improvement of RE across the school. Governors and senior leaders ensure RE is appropriately resourced, timetabled and taught in line with statutory requirements and the Church of England Statement of Entitlement. The RE subject leader works in partnership with senior leaders and governors to ensure high-quality provision and continuous improvement.

Assessment in RE values both academic understanding and pupils' ability to reflect thoughtfully, recognising the importance of developing religious literacy, respect and critical thinking.

Inclusion and Flourishing

At Gunthorpe School, we believe every child is uniquely valued and created in the image of God. In RE, this underpins our commitment to ensuring that all pupils are included, supported and enabled to flourish, regardless of background, belief or ability.

Learning is carefully adapted so that all pupils can participate fully and make progress. Pupils are encouraged to develop confidence in expressing their

own ideas while learning to listen with respect, empathy and understanding towards others.

RE provides a safe and inclusive space where diversity of belief, including non-belief, is respected and valued. Through thoughtful discussion and sensitive teaching, pupils are supported to engage with challenging ideas in a way that promotes dignity, curiosity and mutual respect.

Provision includes:

- Accessibility for all learners, including appropriate support for pupils with SEND
- Respect for all beliefs and non-belief within a culture of dignity and inclusion
- Appropriate adaptations to ensure all pupils can access and engage with learning
- A safe and supportive environment for discussion, reflection and enquiry

Spiritual Development

Religious Education at Gunthorpe School makes a significant contribution to pupils' spiritual development, rooted in our Christian vision that we "let our light shine." Through RE, pupils are encouraged to reflect on their place in the world God has created and to explore life's deeper questions with curiosity, respect and openness.

Pupils are given opportunities to:

- Reflect on awe, wonder and the beauty of creation
- Explore questions of identity, meaning, purpose and belonging
- Consider beliefs about God, humanity and the world from a range of perspectives
- Experience stillness and reflection, developing thoughtful and considered responses
- Deepen their understanding of their own values, beliefs and responsibilities

Through these experiences, pupils are supported in developing wisdom, hope, resilience and compassion, enabling them to flourish and contribute positively to the world around them.

The Right of Withdrawal from RE

Religious Education (RE) is a statutory part of the curriculum and is considered an important element of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. At our school, RE is taught in an objective, balanced and inclusive way that encourages understanding of Christianity and other religious and non-religious worldviews.

Parents and carers have the legal right to withdraw their child from all or part of Religious Education in accordance with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. Parents are not required to provide a reason for requesting withdrawal, and any request will be respected and granted without delay.

Any request for withdrawal should be made in writing to the Headteacher by completing the withdrawal form at the end of this policy to ensure clarity and accurate record keeping. Following confirmation of withdrawal, we may offer an opportunity to discuss the request and explain the nature and content of the RE curriculum; however, this discussion is entirely optional.

Where a pupil is withdrawn from RE, we will make reasonable alternative arrangements for supervision. Alternative provision will not normally involve teaching another curriculum subject or catch-up work but will provide appropriate activities that support the pupil's wider personal development where possible.

Impact

Through Religious Education, pupils at Gunthorpe School develop as thoughtful, respectful and spiritually aware individuals who understand the importance of dignity, diversity and community.

Pupils leave RE lessons with:

- A secure understanding of Christianity and other religious and non-religious worldviews
- Confidence to ask questions and think deeply
- Respect for themselves and others
- An awareness of their responsibility within the world God created
- The ability to live well together and let their light shine within their communities

REVIEW

Reviewed and Approved by Governors: May 2026

Next review date: May 2029



'Feeding Minds, Touching Hearts'

Gunthorpe Church of England

Primary School

David's Lane

Gunthorpe

Nottingham, NG14 7EW

Tel: 0115 966 3481

Request for Withdrawal from Religious Education (RE)

Pupil Name: _____

Class: _____

Date of Request: _____

Parent/Carer Request

I request that my child be withdrawn from Religious Education (RE) in accordance with my legal right under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

Please indicate the extent of withdrawal:

☐ Full withdrawal from RE

☐ Partial withdrawal (please

specify below)

Details of partial withdrawal (if applicable):

Acknowledgement

- I am not required to give a reason for this request.
- The school will provide appropriate supervision for my child during RE lessons.
- Alternative provision will not include additional teaching or other curriculum subjects.
- I am responsible for any alternative RE I wish my child to receive.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

School Use Only

Date request received: _____

Date withdrawal confirmed: _____



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