



# Religious Education Policy

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St Christopher's Church of England High School

**Compiled by:**

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**Approved by:**

The Governing Body

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# St Christopher's CE High School Mission Statement

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**St Christopher's is a Church of England Academy where pupils and staff work together, in the knowledge and love of God. We try to act out our faith in daily life, with Christ as our example.**

Within our strong Christian, Anglican context, we seek to promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, intellectual and physical development of our pupils, growing together as a caring and supportive community whilst preparing them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of their adult lives.

We aim to achieve our mission by providing an environment which

- recognises that each member of the school community is an individual with specific needs and strengths
- fosters mutual respect and concern for others
- values the contribution made by each member of the school community
- encourages and celebrates positive achievement
- actively supports those in need.

## Foundation Scripture

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“Blessed is the one  
who does not walk in step with the wicked  
or stand in the way that sinners take  
or sit in the company of mockers,  
but whose delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and who meditates on his law day and night.  
That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,  
which yields its fruit in season  
and whose leaf does not wither—  
whatever they do prospers.”

(Psalm 1:1-3)

This scripture underpins all that we do and everything that we stand for as a school.

## Religious Education (RE) at St Christopher's

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**RE is central to the mission of the school at St. Christopher's and this is reflected in the department's location on the ground floor, close to main reception – the first department that visitors to school experience. As a school of Faith, RE's core purpose is to nourish Christian pupils in the Faith and to clearly present the Christian Gospel to those with none.**

To achieve this, the RE department is proactive at working closely with the school's Chaplaincy team and other organisations that share our spiritual DNA. Curriculum time is 3 lessons per fortnight in Years 7-9 and 4 per fortnight in Years 10-11. Key Stage 3 content is delivered separately from our GCSE courses at Key Stage 4. Key stage 5 provision is exactly in line with all other A Level subjects.

GCSE is an entitlement for all at St. Christopher's, and we are committed to ensuring that the vast majority of our pupils, often, entire year group cohorts, leave school with the full course qualification. Any individual exceptions to this rule will always leave us with at least a short course qualification.

In line with our core purpose, the main focus of our teaching at key stage 3 and 4 is Christianity, though we do teach both Islam and Judaism to GCSE level alongside Christianity and in line with the requirements of the specification. We believe that the Judaism connects us to our Christian roots, and that the delivery of GCSE Islam, located as we are in East Lancashire, helps us to produce responsible, well informed 21st century UK citizens, who can productively take their place in the world.

We recognise the statutory right of parents to withdraw their child from RE, but also our strong church attendance admissions policy which makes this highly unlikely. In reality it would be a rare occasion indeed if an individual was withdrawn from RE.



**That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,  
which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither-  
whatever they do prospers.**

Psalm 1:3



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**[www.st-christophers.org](http://www.st-christophers.org)**

