



RELIGIOUS STUDIES

RGS The Grange

September 2026

Clare Weston - Head of Religious Studies

Introduction

RGS The Grange is made up of staff and pupils from a variety of nationalities, cultures and faith groups. As a school, we aim to celebrate this diversity and offer a welcoming and inclusive environment for all.

We believe that Religious Studies provides an opportunity to foster awareness of differences within our school and the wider world. It is a subject that celebrates diversity and challenges stereotypes. We aim to deepen our pupils' knowledge about religions and develop their 'religious literacy'.

Religious Studies is taught with reference to the aims of the Agreed Syllabus for Worcestershire (2025–30). Particularly relevant to RGS The Grange are the following aims:

‘To deliver a syllabus which will contribute effectively to the development of community cohesion and encourage pupils to treat the religious beliefs of all with respect and courtesy, with the aim of creating a harmonious, just and equitable society.’

‘To encourage pupils to understand what is meant by ‘religion’ and engage with the range of beliefs, practices and values they will thereby encounter.’

Legal Requirements

In accordance with the law, we provide Religious Studies for all pupils registered at the school.

Parents are informed that they have the right to withdraw their children from Religious Studies, and are required to state this intent annually, in writing, to the Headmaster. If parents choose to withdraw their children, we believe it is their responsibility to provide acceptable alternative Religious Studies work for their children to do during school RS lessons. We expect that this work will be discussed with the class teacher, so that these pupils can be fully included, and their alternative work is linked to what the rest of the class is learning.

Allocation of Time for Religious Studies

Religious Studies is taught as a discrete subject once per week in the Pre-Prep and Prep Departments. This also includes additional time for visits to places of worship.

Pupils participate in Collective Acts of Worship as a whole school.

Teaching and Learning

Our Religious Studies teaching is based on learning from different religions, as well as learning about religions. This is achieved by basing our lesson plans on three core elements:

- Making sense of beliefs - identifying and making sense of core religious and non-religious beliefs and concepts; understanding what these beliefs mean within their traditions; recognising how and why sources of authority (such as texts) are used, expressed and interpreted in different ways; and developing skills of interpretation
- Making connections - evaluating, reflecting on and connecting the beliefs and practices studied; allowing pupils to challenge the ideas studied, and the ideas studied to challenge pupils' thinking; discerning possible connections between these and pupils' own lives and ways of understanding the world
- Understanding the impact - examining how and why people put their beliefs into action in diverse ways, within their everyday lives, within their communities, and in the wider world

These three elements are interrelated in our Scheme of Work. Work is scaffolded, and appropriate resources are used to support and meet the needs of pupils with SEND and EAL.

Religious Studies at RGS The Grange develops many key learning skills, such as investigating, interpreting, analysing, explaining, synthesising, reflecting, evaluating and empathising.

Where possible, we create links between RS and other subjects, particularly our PSHCE curriculum and SMSC provision.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

Religious Studies is a key opportunity for pupils to develop spiritually, morally, socially and culturally. In Religious Studies lessons, as well as in PSHCE and in our Collective Worship programme, pupils are invited to reflect on their personal responses to issues, consider others' responses, and to respect that belief in a spiritual dimension is an important aspect of some people's lives.

Religious Studies supports our school's Christian ethos of introducing pupils to the significance of belonging to a community, the diversity of communities in the wider world, faith rules and their application to moral and ethical issues, and cultural influences on religious practice.

EYFS

Religious Studies makes a contribution towards achieving the Early Learning Goals in the seven areas of learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage, but particularly in the following areas:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Literacy
- Understanding the World

Pupils will begin to explore religion through stories, special people, events and books. They will begin to reflect on their own feelings and experiences, and to use and develop their imagination and appreciation of the world around them. We encourage visits from members of faith communities, as well as embracing opportunities to learn about the special occasions that pupils celebrate in their own religion.

Pre-Prep Department

In Key Stage 1, pupils begin to acquire knowledge and understanding of Christianity, Judaism, Islam and Sikhism. They consider beliefs, forms of worship and the festivals that are celebrated. Pupils are encouraged to explore their own identity, feelings and experiences, as well as those of others in their school and family.

We embrace opportunities to learn about the special occasions that pupils celebrate in their families as part of their religious beliefs, and promote visits from family members who wish to talk to pupils about their special holy days. Visits to places of worship are also used to develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of a religion; we encourage visits to places of worship such as a church and a mosque.

Prep Department

In the Prep Department, Christianity is studied in each year group. Buddhism is studied in Year 3, Hinduism and Islam in Year 4, Judaism and Islam in Year 5, and Sikhism, Hinduism and non-religious communities in Year 6.

Pupils learn about the main beliefs these communities hold and how these are manifested in acts of worship. They explore the meaning of commitment to beliefs and observance of religious codes of conduct. They continue to reflect on their own and others' experiences, with particular emphasis on encouraging a respectful, mindful approach to all they do in life.

We aim to support pupils in understanding the alternatives and conflicts which life offers, such as right and wrong, selfishness and compassion, truth and falsehood, and justice and injustice. We aim to include a visit to a place of worship, and encourage visits from members of faith communities.

Inclusion, SEND and EAL

Religious Studies is taught to all pupils, including those with special educational needs and disabilities and those with English as an additional language, in line with the Equality Act 2010, the SEND Code of Practice 2014, and the school's SEND and Equality, Diversity & Inclusion policies. Work is scaffolded and appropriate resources are used, so that all pupils can access the curriculum and feel fully included.

Assessment

Pupil Self-Assessment

Pupils can use our red, amber and green traffic-light system to colour-code their self-assessment.

Formative Assessment

Teachers' assessments are used to inform our lesson planning, based on both oral and written work. Verbal feedback can be given.

Summative Assessment

Written reports are produced for Religious Studies at the end of each academic year. In the EYFS, progress is recorded in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile. In Upper Key Stage 2, we provide opportunities for pupils to reflect on their learning.

Monitoring

Standards of teaching and learning in Religious Studies are monitored in the following ways:

- Work scrutiny of a lower attainer, middle attainer and higher attainer, to monitor continuity and progression in work within a year group
- Monitoring of lesson planning on Google Drive and Showbie
- Lesson observations
- The Scheme of Work and this policy are monitored termly and reviewed annually by the Head of Religious Studies (Clare Weston)

Resources

- The Heads of Religious Studies manage the resources and have an annually allocated budget
- Each year group has its own Scheme of Work, with lesson plans on Google Drive
- Religious artefact boxes are stored and distributed by the Heads of Religious Studies
- The Library contains reference books for Religious Studies
- Bibles are stored in each Prep year group

This Religious Studies policy applies to all pupils from EYFS to Year 6.

Sponsor: Headmaster

Author: Clare Weston

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Endorsed in October 2016 by Chair of Education Committee
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