St Andrew's Primary School
RE Curriculum Overview

At St Andrew's, we believe that Religious Education (RE) helps children make sense of the world, reflect on their own beliefs and develop respect for others. Our curriculum supports children to explore *big life questions* and understand a wide range of beliefs and traditions.

Our Approach

RE at St Andrew's is built around three key lenses of learning. Each unit of work links to one or more of these:

Theology – *What do people believe about God?*

- This lens focuses on understanding the core beliefs of different religions.
- Children explore *sacred texts*, teachings, symbols, and stories.
- For example, they might learn what Christians believe about Jesus, or how Hindus describe God through different deities.

Philosophy – *How do people think about questions of life and meaning?*

- This lens helps children think deeply and ask big questions about *truth, knowledge, right and wrong, and human purpose*.
- It encourages critical thinking and personal reflection.
- Philosophy allows space for *non-religious worldviews* like Humanism.

Human/Social Sciences – *How do beliefs affect people's lives?*

- This lens focuses on how religion is *lived out* in the real world.
- Children learn about festivals, practices, community life, and the impact of faith in society.
- It encourages awareness and appreciation of diversity.

Resources We Use

To support rich, inclusive and engaging RE, we draw from a variety of well-regarded resources:

- Understanding Christianity (UC)
  A detailed programme supporting strong, thoughtful teaching of Christian beliefs, values and Bible stories.
- Essex SACRE
  Locally agreed syllabuses ensuring fair and thorough coverage of major world religions. Essex is particularly strong on progression and inclusion.
- SATRE (Saffron Academy Trust Resources)
  Provides age-appropriate, enquiry-based lessons with links to real-world issues and personal development.
- NATRE (National Association of Teachers of RE)
  A trusted national organisation offering up-to-date resources, training and support for excellent RE practice.
- RE:Online and RE Today
  Two websites filled with reliable teaching materials, planning tools and video clips that help bring RE to life.
- BBC Bitesize and BBC Religion & Ethics
  Clear, child-friendly videos and articles exploring beliefs, practices and festivals in different religions.
- RE:Quest
  A Christian resource helping pupils understand Christian beliefs from a faith perspective using videos and real-life stories.
- Anti-Racist RE (NATRE)
  Helps children explore identity, fairness and justice while learning about and celebrating religious and cultural diversity.

Each class explores key questions through stories, celebrations, traditions, and thoughtful discussions. Here's what your child will be learning this year:

Mulberry Class

Year A – What We Learn	Lens	Year B – What We Learn	Lens
Why is the word God so important to Christians? – Exploring what Christians believe about God and why God is central to their faith.	Theology & Philosophy	**Why is the word God so important to Christians? –** Exploring what Christians believe about God and why God is central to their faith.	Theology & Philosophy
Why do some Christians perform Nativity plays at Christmas? – Learning about the birth of Jesus and how Christians celebrate this special story.	Theology & Philosophy	**Why do some Christians perform Nativity plays at Christmas?** – Learning about the birth of Jesus and how Christians celebrate this special story.	Theology & Philosophy
Where do we belong? – Exploring identity and community in Christianity, Hinduism and Islam	Theology & Philosophy	**Where do we belong? –** Exploring identity and community in Christianity, Hinduism and Islam	Theology & Philosophy
Why do some Christians put a cross on the Easter garden? – Discovering how Christians remember the Easter story and what the cross means to them.	Theology & Philosophy	**Why do some Christians put a cross on the Easter garden? –** Discovering how Christians remember the Easter story and what the cross means to them.	Theology & Philosophy
Which places are special and why? – Learning about special places in different religions	Theology & Philosophy	**Which places are special and why?** – Learning about special places in different religions	Theology & Philosophy
Which stories are special and why? – Discovering stories that guide people of faith	Theology & Philosophy	**Which stories are special and why? –** Discovering stories that guide people of faith	Theology & Philosophy

Apple Class

Year A – What We Learn	Lens	Year B – What We Learn	Lens
Who made the world? – Exploring Christian beliefs about creation	Philosophy	**How do Jews belong to their faith family?** – Learning about Jewish traditions and belonging	Human/Social Science
Why is light important to different faiths? – Exploring festivals and meaning	Theology	**Why does Christmas matter to Christians?** – Understanding what the Nativity teaches Christians	Theology
How do Jewish people celebrate Passover? – Learning about Jewish traditions	Human/Social Science	**How do celebrations bring communities together?** – Exploring shared celebrations in faiths	Human/Social Science
What do my senses tell me about the world of religion and belief? – Exploring sights, sounds and rituals	Philosophy	**Why does Easter matter to Christians?** – Understanding the story and symbol of the cross	Theology
What do Jews remember on Shabbat? – Learning about the Sabbath	Theology	**Why do people have different views about the idea of God?** – Exploring beliefs across different religions	Philosophy
What is the Good News that the Gospel brings? – Understanding Christian messages of kindness and love	Theology	Extended discussion on views about God	Philosophy

Cherry Class

Year A – What We Learn	Lens	Year B – What We Learn	Lens
How do people express commitment to a religion/worldview in different ways? – Exploring how people show faith	Human/Social Science	**What do Christians learn from the Creation Story?** – Understanding Christian views on creation	Theology
What is the Trinity? – Learning about God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit	Theology	**What is philosophy?** – Learning to think deeply about beliefs	Philosophy
What do Muslims believe about God? – Exploring key Islamic beliefs	Theology	**Why do Christians call the day Jesus died 'Good Friday'?** – Reflecting on Easter	Human/Social Science
What difference does being Muslim make to daily life? – Understanding Islamic daily life	Human/Social Science	**Why do people pray?** – Exploring how prayer connects people to faith	Philosophy
What is Philosophy? How do people make moral decisions? – Exploring choices through Christianity and Humanism	Philosophy	**Why do people make pilgrimages?** – Learning about spiritual journeys in faiths	Human/Social Science

Horse Chestnut Tree Class

Year A – What We Learn	Lens	Year B – What We Learn	Lens
Where do religious beliefs come from? – Learning about Jewish sacred texts	Theology	**What does it mean if God is holy and loving?** – Exploring Christian ideas about God	Theology
What is it like to follow God? – Understanding faith in action	Human/Social Science	**What do Hindus believe God is like?** – Exploring Hindu stories and images of God	Theology
What did Jesus do to save human beings? – Learning about Jesus' life and death	Theology	**What do we mean by 'truth'? Is seeing believing?** – Asking deep questions about truth	Philosophy
What kind of world did Jesus want? – Exploring Jesus' teachings	Theology	**How do Buddhists explain suffering?** – Learning about Buddhist teachings on life and suffering	Theology
How do religious groups contribute to society and culture? – Looking at impact of religion in culture	Human/Social Science	**How do Hindus make sense of the world?** – Understanding Hindu beliefs about life and meaning	Theology

Oak Class

Year A – What We Learn	Lens	Year B – What We Learn	Lens
Why do Hindus try to be good? – Exploring Hindu teachings on right and wrong	Theology	**Creation and science: Conflicting or complementary?** – Considering science and belief together	Theology & Philosophy
How do Sikhs interact with culture and society? – Learning about Sikh beliefs and community service	Human/Social Science	**Was Jesus the Messiah?** – Exploring Christian beliefs about Jesus' identity	Theology
What difference does the Resurrection make for Christians? – Understanding Easter's significance	Theology	**How and why does religion cause peace or conflict?** – Exploring religion in society today	Human/Social Science
What can we learn from great philosophers? – Asking life's big questions	Philosophy	**Anti-Racist RE** – Understanding faith, justice, and inclusion	Human/Social Science
Anti-Racist RE – Understanding faith, justice, and inclusion	Human/Social Science	**Is believing in God reasonable?** – Reflecting on Philosophical ideas, belief and doubt	Philosophy
What would Jesus do? – Exploring Christian responses to moral dilemmas	Theology		