



“Learning, achieving and thriving as a school family through God’s love.”

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” (Jeremiah 29 v11)

RE Policy

About Ilam CE (VA) Primary School

Ilam CE(VA) school, is a close-knit loving family with a heart to see all flourish. Within a warm, nurturing environment our children become caring, courageous, respectful individuals. Through our Christian values our children aspire for the very best for themselves and our community.

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.” *Jeremiah 29:11*

This is a message of hope and a promise of a good future that is easy to cling to and repeat. Ilam school’s vision and values reflect Jeremiah’s message of hope and compassion. Ilam CE (VA) school supports children at all stages of faith, those from all faith backgrounds and none and works with and alongside families and children who are experiencing difficulties, challenges, and change. As a school team, we recognise that all deserve life in all its fullness (*John 10:10*) and we seek to enable all children and adults to flourish, no matter where they are on their journey of faith and no matter how complex their needs or difficult their personal situations. Our vision and values reflect our desire to be a place of lived out faith.

In all that we do and all that aim to be, we seek to welcome all.

Context of Jeremiah:

At the heart of the Christian story is the call to wisdom and repentance. This is seen in the Old Testament when the prophets are sent to challenge the practices and behaviours taking place and to point to God and his laws as the way to live.

The Book of Jeremiah reflects the ever-worsening situation Jeremiah encountered. At various times, he had the unenviable tasks of challenging the religious hypocrisy, economic dishonesty, and oppressive practices of Judah’s leaders and those who followed them. Jeremiah was the voice of warning, the watchman who brings attention to hard truths that others would rather ignore. However, despite the lamenting and the warnings given, Jeremiah points to a more promising and fruitful future to come. The book of Jeremiah reflects God’s promise and his covenant. That those who love God will be richly blessed.

Ilam CE (VA) Primary School is committed to educating the whole child in a caring community and RE plays an important part in these aims. This policy is overarched and subject to the agreed contents and conditions of the Safeguarding Children and E- Safety Policies

This policy has been adopted by the Governors in consultation with the Head teacher, RE subject leader and teaching staff. It was approved by governors in **March 2023** and will be reviewed in **March 2026**.

RE Link Governor:	Barbara Temperton
Named RE subject leader	Emily Goldstraw
Executive Headteacher	Emily Johnson

Context

- The context of RE at Ilam CE (VA) Primary School is that of a small rural primary school, serving children in the age range 3-11 years.
- We teach according to the Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus.
- We recognise the variety of religious and non-religious backgrounds from which our pupils come. We welcome the diversity and we intend to be sensitive to the home background of each child. We are glad to have the active support of religious and non-religious members of our local community to support our teaching of RE.
- We recognize the inter-relationship between pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, and the leading role which the RE curriculum plays in some of these areas.

The Aims of RE at Ilam CE (VA) Primary school

RE at Ilam CE (VA) Primary School will be provided in line with the legal requirements. These are that:

- the basic curriculum will include provision for religious education for all pupils on the school roll;
- the content of RE shall reflect the fact that religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, while taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religious traditions represented in Great Britain;
- the RE which is provided shall be in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus for Staffordshire.

Within the framework of the law and the Agreed Syllabus, the aims in RE at Ilam CE (VA) Primary school are for pupils to:

- acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and the other principal religions represented in the United Kingdom;
- develop an understanding of the influence of religious and non-religious worldviews, values and traditions on individuals, communities, societies and cultures, locally, nationally and globally;
- develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues, with reference to the teachings and diversity within the religious and non-religious worldviews represented in the United Kingdom;
- enhance their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development by:
 - developing awareness of the fundamental questions of life raised by human experiences, and of how religious teachings and other beliefs can relate to them;
 - responding to such questions with reference to the teachings and practices of religions and worldviews relating them to their own understanding and experience;
 - reflecting on their own beliefs, values and experiences in the light of their study;
- develop positive attitudes of respect towards other people who hold views and beliefs different from their own, and towards living in a society of diverse religions and worldviews.

Time Allocation.

RE in EYFS planned within the EYFS Framework.

It is recommended that RE is taught for a minimum of 36 hours per year at Key Stage One, and 45 hours per year at Key Stage Two.

RE curriculum time does not include assembly or collective worship, even when the assembly provides a starting point for curricular work. Christmas and Easter production rehearsals and performances are not RE.

Scheme of Work

A detailed scheme of work is available for teachers and other interested people alongside this policy.

It has been written in the light of the Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus.

EYFS	Themes emerging from the EYFS Framework as well as Understanding Christianity and the Lichfield Diocese Scheme of Work
Y1,2,3 (Squirrels Class)	Christianity, Islam and Judaism
Y4,5,6 (Kingfisher Class)	Christianity, Islam, Judaism and worldviews

Teaching and Learning Strategies

Our policy is to aim to ensure the use in RE of art, drama, thinking skills, speaking and listening activities, visits, posters, photographs, videos, ICT use, display work and other active learning strategies. Cross curricular work is encouraged, in line with whole school policy on teaching and learning. We recognise the importance of teaching to the Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus in a creative, knowledge-rich, broad and balanced way.

Resources

We have a range of resources, to support our RE teaching, that we continue to develop.

We also borrow and share items with other local schools.

Our school has invested in new books/religious artefacts/DVDs/picture packs/posters. Our staff are given protected time to familiarize themselves with any new materials. We store some books in the head's office. Bibles are stored in the school library. We continue to build upon our children's books which offers many stories from different traditions. A regular audit of resources takes place by the RE subject leader in order to update our collection. We encourage school families to donate appropriate artefacts/utilise our local resource centre for RE.

Visits and visitors

We visit places of worship (Ilam Church, Ashbourne Methodist Church and Derby Faith trail) where faith leaders and other members of the community are willing to meet with children and be involved in the teaching of RE. We aim to use this valuable resource for all classes. The children make regular visits to Ilam Church as part of RE lessons, Collective Worship or for other learning within the wider curriculum.

Matching Work to Pupils' Needs

Our whole school policy regarding pupils with special needs and differentiation, applies to RE.

Teachers should be alert to the fact that some children have special and deep experience of a religion through family practice. This of course may not relate to their general educational ability.

Assessment

We report on pupils' progress and attainment in RE to parents, as required by law. The Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus provides descriptions of progress and attainment, which the school has agreed to use as a basis for reporting at the end of each key stage. We make specific,

individual, accurate comments on each child's progress in RE in annual reports, based on regular monitoring of work and transfer this information to new schools when pupils leave us. Staff also use progression documents to help them make judgements. Informal assessments through verbal quizzes enables children to commit learning to their long-term memory. This approach to exemplifying standards aims to clarify our understanding of what makes for quality RE. Spirituality is addressed in reflection and through issues raised in discussions.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

We intend that this policy should operate for the next 3 years, and then be fully reviewed by all staff and governors. To ensure that our RE policy is in practice, and to help teachers keep track of their own work and needs for support or training, all staff are asked to upload RE planning onto the school shared area.

The subject leader's role includes monitoring and evaluation of this policy in practice. We maintain a 'self-evaluation' of our RE work in preparation for any scrutiny.

Self-Evaluation

The subject leader for RE will assess and review the subject's strengths and areas for development in discussion with foundation governors and the Christian Distinctiveness Advisor.

Staff training and CPD

All staff have access to RE CPD in line with the subject leader's identified areas for development. This is either 'in house' or from an external provider (usually LDBE CDA). The RE subject leader also accesses training through Lichfield Diocese meetings.

Transition

We ensure that transition across key stages (including to KS3) includes a simple statement of the religions and topics that pupils have covered alongside their progress and achievement.

Withdrawal

We note the Human Right of parents to withdraw their children from RE and of teachers to withdraw from teaching the subject. We aim to provide an open curriculum which can be taught to all pupils, by all staff.

Teachers are asked to refer to the head teacher any questions from parents about withdrawals. Requests for full or partial withdrawal from RE should be made in writing to the head teacher and a record kept of them.

Guidance on withdrawal can be found here.

[Religious education \(RE\) and collective worship in academies and free schools - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/religious-education-re-and-collective-worship-in-academies-and-free-schools)

Adopted : March 2023 : Full Governing Body

To be reviewed : March 2026