St John's Religious Education (RE) Rolling Programme Curriculum Overview

The Religious Education curriculum is designed to develop pupils' understanding of religion, belief and worldviews while encouraging curiosity, reflection and respect for diversity. Through a carefully sequenced two-year rolling programme, pupils build substantive knowledge (the 'what'), disciplinary knowledge (the 'how') and conceptual knowledge (the 'golden threads' that connect learning over time).

The curriculum enables pupils to explore major religions and worldviews, ask meaningful questions and develop their understanding of identity, belonging, morality and community for a range of people from different religions and non-religious groups.

Substantive Knowledge – The 'What'

Substantive knowledge refers to the factual content, concepts and vocabulary pupils learn in Religious Education.

Examples include:

- Religious beliefs and teachings
- Sacred texts and stories
- Festivals and celebrations
- Symbols and artefacts
- Places of worship
- Key religious figures
- Practices, traditions and rituals

This knowledge is varied but also specific to questions based on religions that are being taught.

Disciplinary Knowledge – The 'How'

Disciplinary knowledge teaches pupils how to think, question and investigate within Religious Education.

Theology 	Philosophy 	Social Science 
Questions about belief: what it is, where it has come from, how it has changed over time and how it is applied in different contexts.	Questions about the nature of reality, existence and knowledge.	Questions about the way that religion and beliefs are lived and the impact they can have at an individual, communal and societal level.

This helps pupils understand how people make meaning and how beliefs influence lives and communities.

Conceptual Knowledge – The 'Golden Threads'

Golden threads are the key concepts that run throughout the curriculum and connect learning across religions, year groups and experiences.

The key golden threads within Religious Education are:

Origins and Expression 	**Personal and Collective** 	**Time and Place** 
Meaning and Purpose 	**Ethics and Values** 	**Influence and Power** 

These concepts are revisited regularly so pupils can make meaningful links and deepen understanding over time. *Disciplines and concepts do not have to be equal over the course of the year (Somerset Sacre).*

As St John's is a Church of England Voluntary Aided school, we have designed a curriculum that operates as single years for EYFS and KS1 and on a two-year cycle to support mixed-age classes in KS2. Our curriculum ensures progression without repetition and ensures that 50% of our curriculum is based on Christianity using the Understanding Christianity resource. This focuses on: Creation (God), Incarnation & Salvation in EYFS, God, Creation, Incarnation, Gospel & Salvation in Key Stage 1, and Creation/Fall, People of God, Incarnation/God, Gospel, Salvation, Kingdom of God in Lower Key Stage 2.
Around these, we focus on key questions that will explore the worldview of other religion both local and beyond our school and what we can learn from these.

Assessment and Progression

Assessment in Religious Education focuses on both knowledge and understanding.
Teachers assess pupils through:

- Discussion and questioning
- Entry and exit questions to recap previous and end of lesson learning
- Reflection and response activities
- Vocabulary use
- Comparative thinking
- End of Unit/question quizzes
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Pupils revisit key concepts regularly to strengthen retention and make connections across religions and worldviews.

Inclusion and Adaptation

The Religious Education curriculum is inclusive and respectful of all backgrounds and beliefs.
Teachers support pupils through:

- Vocabulary scaffolding
- Visual and practical learning experiences
- Storytelling and discussion
- Retrieval and repetition
- Adaptive teaching approaches
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All pupils are encouraged to share ideas respectfully and engage with different perspectives and that within RE there are no wrong answer to what you think or believe.

Enrichment Opportunities

Religious Education is enriched through:

- Visits to places of worship where possible
- Visitors from faith communities
- Celebration days and cultural events – we hold a Faith Week in February where we focus on a value and how it is seen in different faiths: Love, Joy, Trust and Peace
- Reflection and mindfulness activities
- Community projects and charity work
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These experiences help pupils connect classroom learning with the wider world.