

The RE Syllabus for Church Schools: some FAQs

What's happened to the OSUs / ASUs?

- There are no additional units.

What's happened to Christmas and Easter?!

- You will still celebrate Christmas and Easter in school! Now that units of work last half a term each, the Christmas (incarnation) and Easter (Salvation) concepts are located within a broader unit of work e.g. the Easter unit for Y1 is located within 'Why do Christians call Jesus 'Saviour'?' and is the culmination of that unit of study.

Do we have any choice over the units we teach?

- All Christianity and 'other' faith units are compulsory, with the exception of a choice at UKS2 of either 2 Hinduism units or 1 Hinduism and 1 Buddhism.
- You need to choose which end of year thematic units you wish to teach. There is a selection for each phase.

What are the thematic units for?

- These units pull together learning from across the units in a year group, providing a chance for some deeper thinking, building of schema, weaving in of new content and an assessment opportunity in the second half of the summer term. (Phew!) We are very excited about these, and hope you will be too! Each year group must study one thematic unit.

Where does Understanding Christianity fit in?

- The Christianity units cover 50% of curriculum time for RE, which is the expected amount of Christianity material in Understanding Christianity. If your school currently uses Understanding Christianity, you should remove the Agreed Syllabus Christianity units and replace them with UC.

Are there specified year groups for the units?

- All Christianity units have an allocated year group to ensure progression across the key stages. Some thematic units have suggested year group allocations to fit with the sequence across the year group, but you are free to make different curriculum decisions if they work better in your context.
- Some thematic units have a year group against them, this is because we think they would work best with this year group; however you can choose *any* thematic unit from that phase you wish you are not limited to just the ones with the year group against it.
- The curriculum overview layout looks as if you should teach all the Islam in one year and all the Judaism in another this is not the case! It is set out this way to show the progression between the units of work, you can teach one in each year if you wish.
- If your school delivers to mixed age classes, you will already have systems in place for how to deliver content, so please make decisions about the new material that works for your curriculum context.

Will you be providing lesson plans?

- No! But we will provide 6 key questions to shape the enquiry across the unit. These could form the basis for each lesson. There will be some support materials for each unit – and more will likely come over time.

Do we have to teach weekly RE lessons?

- You can teach either weekly or blocked RE – there are merits with both.

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What's different for Church schools?

- To meet the Statement of Entitlement requirement for a minimum of 5% of curriculum time, but an expectation of more, you will need to augment your RE curriculum with at least 2 Pause Days across the year, or to extend your units of work to make up the time.
- There is a 'Vision Toolkit' to help you to articulate how your RE contributes towards the outworking of your school's Christian vision.