



# College Town Primary School

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Head Teacher Mrs. Trudi Sammons MA

27<sup>th</sup> November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to provide an overview of how religious education (RE) is taught in English state schools, and to explain how festivals such as Christmas are included within our curriculum. In English state schools, Religious Education (RE) is mandatory and its curriculum must reflect that Britain's traditions are, in the main, Christian while also including other major religions and world views.

## Religious Education in English Schools

All state schools in England are required to teach Religious Education. Religious Education (RE) is **non-denominational**, meaning it is not designed to promote any one faith. Instead, it supports pupils in:

- Learning about the beliefs, practices, and values of a range of world religions
- Understanding how faith influences people's lives
- Developing respect, tolerance, and awareness of the diverse society in which we live
- Thinking about their own ideas and beliefs in a reflective and safe environment

Our RE curriculum follows the **locally agreed syllabus**, which typically includes Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism, and non-religious world views such as Humanism. Lessons focus on knowledge, understanding, discussion, and critical thinking rather than faith instruction.

## How Christmas Is Included

As Christianity is part of the national curriculum for RE, the celebration of **Christmas** is taught as part of pupils' understanding of Christian beliefs and traditions. This may include:

- Learning about the **Nativity story** and its meaning within the Christian faith
- Exploring how Christmas is celebrated in Britain and around the world
- Looking at the cultural and historical aspects of the festival
- Taking part in seasonal activities, such as school plays, singing carols, reading poems, or attending school events that reflect the tradition

These activities are offered in an inclusive way and focus on cultural understanding and shared celebration. Pupils are never required to take part in any activity that conflicts with their family's beliefs, and alternative arrangements can be made if needed.

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**HEADTEACHER: Mrs Trudi Sammons MA**



## Our Commitment to Inclusivity

Our aim is to provide an RE curriculum that reflects modern British society—open, respectful, and diverse. We appreciate the variety of backgrounds and beliefs within our school community and welcome any questions you may have about how RE is taught.

Under current education legislation, parents have the right to **withdraw their child from all or part of Religious Education** if they choose. This includes both the taught RE curriculum and any additional RE-related activities that may take place in school.

Our aim is to provide an inclusive, informative, and balanced RE curriculum that helps pupils understand a variety of religious and non-religious worldviews. However, we fully respect that some families may prefer for their child not to participate in certain elements of this learning. We would like to remind you of your legal rights regarding your child's participation in Religious Education (RE).

If you wish to exercise your right to withdraw your child from RE, please contact the school office who will ensure that a record is made of your wishes.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely



Mrs Trudi Sammons  
Headteacher

