**Vision Statement for RE in Keevil Church of England Academy**

As a Church of England Academy, Religious Education (RE) forms an integral part of our curriculum. We approach it with the same academic rigour that we do all other subjects that we teach, but recognise its unique and special attributes and place within our school. We feel that RE is more important now than ever before, in helping us understand the essential teaching and practice of the Christian faith and the role Christianity has played in forming and shaping our society in modern Britain. As well as going to the very heart of who we are, and providing a framework on which everything else fits.

RE provides an opportunity for children to pause, think and reflect. It allows them to explore and nurture their spirituality, challenging materialistic views of the world around them. It also, most importantly, encourages the development of critical and analytical skills. Encouraging children to ask questions, investigate and research, and preparing them to challenge perceived notions in order to find their own beliefs and answers. This culture of critical thinking provides a powerful inoculation for children against the influence of extremism. Facts are taught and learnt about other religions, and faiths are ‘un-packed’ so that children can see where they come from and what they really mean. This understanding of other belief systems comes from a Christian standpoint, rooted in tolerance and understanding.

However, as a church school RE extends beyond the lessons in classrooms, through our collective worship, into everything we do, acting as the glue that joins it all together. Whether children leave with a Christian faith or not, they should all at the very least understand what Christianity is and have seen this lived out through the life of the school. Understanding how to live their values by reflecting their beliefs through actions and that Christianity is alive and relevant to every day life.