# Why Religious Education is the most important subject for children to learn at Rook's Nest Academy

# What will our children learn?

Religious Education (RE) is an essential part of our curriculum at Rook's Nest as through RE, children develop knowledge and understanding of world faiths and non-religious worldviews, while fostering respect, tolerance, and empathy towards others.

Our RE curriculum teaches our children to:

- Promote the spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development of all pupils.
- Reflect on their own beliefs, values, and experiences.
- Develop respect for different religions, worldviews, and ways of life.
- Respond to challenging questions about meaning, purpose, and truth.
- Prepare to live and contribute positively in a growing diverse society.

## CHALLENGE!

- **How many of the different religious  of the religious symbols can you recognise to the right?**
- **Our children recognise them all!**

# Why RE?

- It can be argued that, alongside PSHE, no other subject in school contributes to a child's holistic development as much as RE – helping our pupil's become well-rounded, understanding future members of society.
- Staff questionnaires on RE have shown that teachers enjoy teaching and value RE as it provides an opportunity for class discussions and debates that other subjects do not necessarily provide as often.

## The facts!

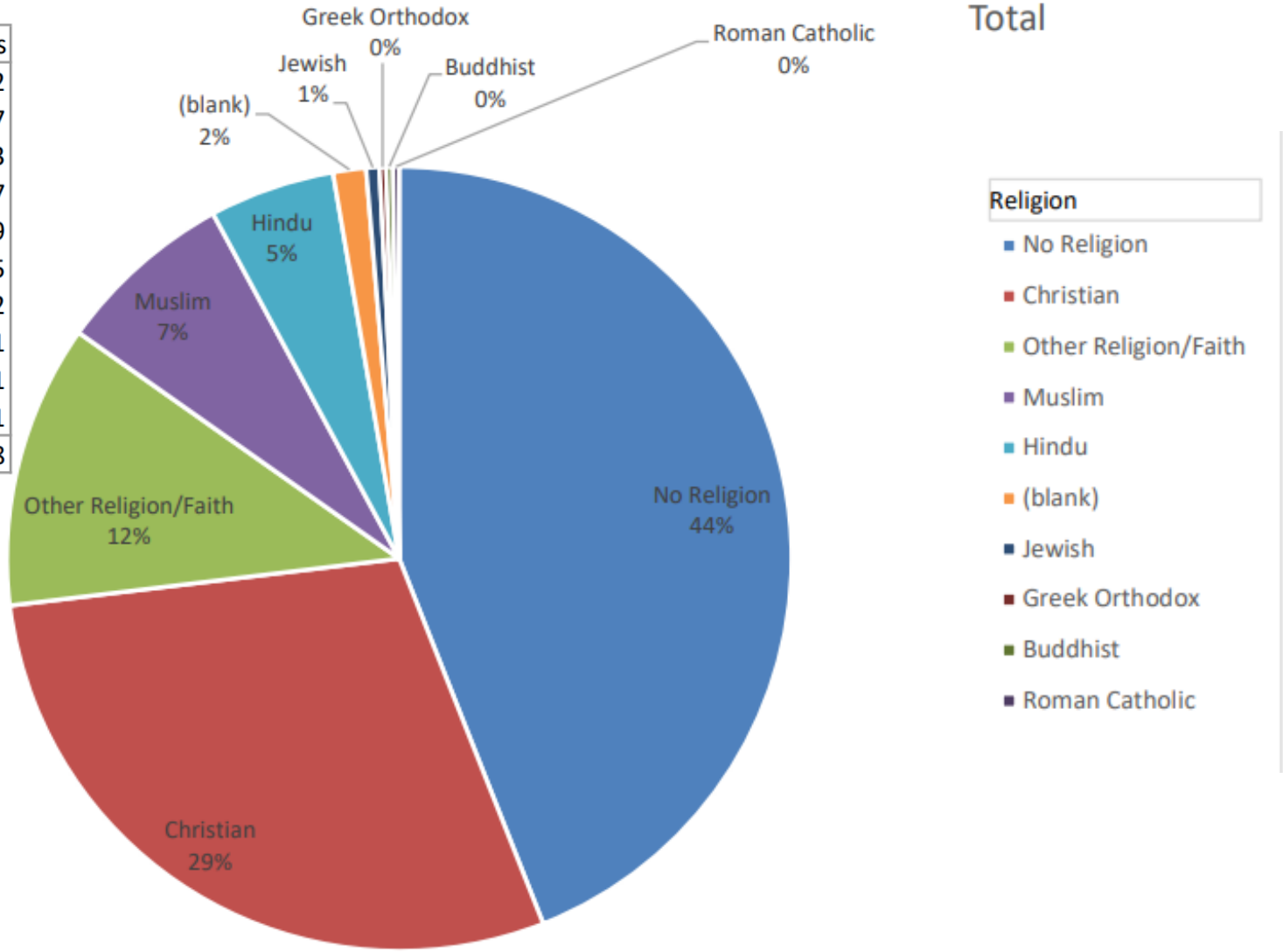
**Two-thirds of UK parents believe Religious Education is an important part of the curriculum: A survey of the parents of school and college-aged children has revealed that the majority believe that the lessons their children learn in Religious Education classes are important, with just 15% saying they did not see the value.**

The survey which polled 2,000 parents was conducted by Savanta ComRes on behalf of the charity, Culham St Gabriel's Trust, which promotes a broad education in religion and world views.

The chief executive, Dr Kathryn Wright, said: "*The research shows that a strong majority are supportive of the religion and world-views approach to RE – particularly the idea that every child has their own unique world-view. RE teachers are crucial in helping young people understand and explore these different world-views and ultimately find their place in modern Britain and the wider world.*''

# Religion at RNA

As demonstrated by the pie chart, our school has many different religions in 2026, many more than we had when I started at this school a few years ago and I expect will continue to grow in coming years. This changing demographic in our school and area truly demonstrates the need and vital importance of Religious Education and its role in encouraging inclusion and belonging.

Number of Pupils

| Row Labels | Number of Pupils |
|---|---|
| No Religion | 162 |
| Christian | 107 |
| Other Religion/Faith | 43 |
| Muslim | 27 |
| Hindu | 19 |
| (blank) | 5 |
| Jewish | 2 |
| Greek Orthodox | 1 |
| Buddhist | 1 |
| Roman Catholic | 1 |
| Grand Total | 368 |