



St Philip Westbrook C of E Primary School

"Together we aim high and with God's love we can fly"

Religious Education Policy

Date of Review	Action
January 2019	New Policy Adopted

Religious Education Policy

I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. John 10:10

Our Vision Statement:

'Together we aim high, and with God's love we can fly.'

We aim to create a loving community, enfolded by Christian values. Here children can develop their God given potential in a secure, nurturing and happy environment that embraces excellence and enables children to live life in all its fullness.

Mission Statement for RE

In line with our Christian vision we are committed to providing high quality RE provision that enables all pupils to flourish. At St Philip Westbrook Voluntary Aided Primary School Religious Education will support children in developing their own beliefs, values and attitudes through an exploration of shared human experience and the place and significance of Christianity and other religions in the contemporary world with an emphasis on Anglican beliefs, practices and traditions.

Through the teaching of RE we seek to enable each child to develop their own relationship with God, should they wish to do so, and be given an insight into what it means to be a person of faith. We also want children from different faith backgrounds to be encouraged in their faith.

Christian Values

Religious Education strengthens and supports the distinctive Christian character of our school and reaffirms our school's Christian values which are at the heart of teaching and learning in our school. We encourage all of our children to put these values into practice in every aspect of school life. Our values are:

- Respect
- Hope
- Trust
- Fairness
- Compassion
- Wisdom
- Fellowship
- Perseverance

Responsibility

In Voluntary Aided schools such as ours the management of Religious Education is a distinctive role of the governing body and the Headteacher. RE is provided in accordance with the school's Trust Deed and in accordance with rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England. The Governing Body as a whole is responsible for determining the nature of RE provided in our school.

Although Religious Education and Collective Worship naturally compliment and enrich one another, they are managed separately – see Collective Worship Policy. RE provides children with knowledge and understanding, whereas worship has a strong focus on our connections/relationship with God. At times our RE themes link clearly to worship, because they do, by nature complement each other.

Our RE Curriculum

Governors have adopted the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education Syllabus, as recommended by Liverpool Diocese, which fulfils all legal requirements and the RE Statement of Entitlement from the Church of England Education Office 2016.

“In Church of England schools the students and their families can expect a religious education curriculum that is rich and varied, enabling learners to acquire a thorough knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith. Church schools should provide a wide range of opportunities for learners to understand and to make links between the beliefs, practices and value systems of the range of faiths and world views studied. Church schools should use some form of enquiry approach that engages with, for example biblical text, and helps develop religious and theological literacy. Links with the Christian values of the school and spiritual, moral, social and cultural development are intrinsic to the RE curriculum and should have a significant impact on learners.” RE Statement of Entitlement: The Church of England Education Office 2016

At St Philip’s our RE provision enables all children to make excellent progress in their knowledge and understanding of Christianity. Pupils develop their skills of enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and reflection and also develop theological understanding, philosophical thinking and sociological application.

We provide a rich and varied RE curriculum making full use of a variety of teaching strategies to engage pupils in their learning for example, by using drama or music. We strive to give all children the opportunity to acquire a thorough knowledge of the Christian faith. We endeavour to give children the opportunity to respond personally to the stories and teachings of Jesus. We also provide children with a range of opportunities to make links between the beliefs and practices of different faiths. Children record their thoughts, findings and ideas in their individual RE book. Each class also has an RE log where additional ideas can be recorded.

We use our RE Syllabus for all planning and supplement this with Understanding Christianity resources. Here we learn about God’s Big Story: God, Creation, Fall, People of God, Incarnation, Gospel, Salvation, Kingdom of God.

We learn about

- God who reveals himself through creation
- God who reveals himself through Jesus his Son
- God who reveals himself in his Spirit

Time Allocation

We aim to allocate approximately 10% of teaching and learning time to RE and never less than 5% as an absolute minimum. This is in line with national and diocesan guidelines.

“Christianity should be the majority study in RE in every school. In Church schools that should be clearly adhered to. KS 1 – 3 at least 2/3rds of RE curriculum is to be Christianity. Sufficient dedicated curriculum time, meeting explicitly RE objectives, however organised, should be committed to the delivery of RE. This should aim to be close to 10% but must be no less than 5%.”

RE Statement of Entitlement: The Church of England Education Office 2016

Out of the curriculum time for RE, Christianity occupies 80% of the time with 20% devoted to non-Christian faiths. The two faiths studied are Judaism and Islam. This means that during a pupil’s life at our school England they will have gained a thorough grounding in Christianity, and have a reasonable understanding and knowledge of two other faiths.

Aims of Religious Education at our school

The aims of Religious Education in our school are in line with RE Statement of Entitlement: The Church of England Education Office 2016

- *To enable pupils to know about and understand Christianity as a living faith that influences the lives of people worldwide and as the religion that has most shaped British culture and heritage.*
- *To enable pupils to know and understand about other major world religions and world views, their impact on society, culture and the wider world, enabling pupils to express ideas and insights.*
- *To contribute to the development of pupils' own spiritual/philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own beliefs and values.*

Appropriate to age at the end of their education in Church schools the expectation is that all pupils are religiously literate and, as a minimum, pupils are able to:

- *Give a theologically informed and thoughtful account of Christianity as a living and diverse faith.*
- *Show an informed and respectful attitude to religions and world views in their search for God and meaning.*
- *Engage in meaningful and informed dialogue with those of other faiths and none.*
- *Reflect critically and responsibly on their own spiritual, philosophical and ethical convictions.*

This can be expressed in more detail and distinctively as:

We learn about

- God who reveals the truth about himself and humanity through creation, the giving of the law, his action in history and through the prophets;
- God who reveals himself ultimately in Jesus his Son, living among us and dying and rising for us;
- God who reveals himself in his Spirit working in the living faith of the Church experienced through scripture, tradition and reason.

We learn from

- an empathetic response to the Christian faith and a critical engagement with it;
- responding personally to the stories and teachings of Jesus Christ;
- examples of Christian living which give priority to the values of unconditional love, forgiveness, reconciliation, justice, compassion and faith.

Religious Education in our school also helps pupils to:

- learn *about* other faiths, their beliefs, traditions and practices and *from* them through encounter and dialogue;
- recognise and respect those of all faiths in their search for God;
- recognise areas of common belief and practice between different faiths;
- enrich and expand their understanding of truth while remaining faithful to their own tradition;
- enrich their own faith through examples of holy living in other traditions.

Religious Education in our school helps pupils to:

- reflect theologically and explore the ultimate questions and challenges of life in today's society;
- reflect critically on the truth claims of Christian belief;
- see how the truth of Christianity is relevant today;
- understand the challenge faced by Christians in today's pluralist and post-modern society;
- develop the skills to handle the Bible text;
- recognise that faith is based on commitment to a particular way of understanding God and the world;
- begin to develop their own commitments, beliefs and values;
- develop a sense of themselves as significant, unique and precious;
- experience the breadth and variety of the Christian community;
- engage in thoughtful dialogue with other faiths and traditions;
- become active citizens, serving their neighbour;
- find a reason for hope in a troubled world;

- understand how religious faith can sustain believers in difficult circumstances and in the face of opposition.;

Religious Education in our school also enables:

- pupils and teachers to talk openly and freely about their own personal beliefs and practice without fear of ridicule;
- pupils to make excellent and appropriate progress in their knowledge and understanding of Christianity;
- pupils from Christian families to talk openly about their beliefs and values in lessons and to grow in their faith;
- pupils from other faith backgrounds to understand and be encouraged in their faith;
- pupils with no religious background to be given an insight into what it means to be a person of faith;
- pupils of all backgrounds to have a safe place to explore the ultimate questions and challenges of life in today's society.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

We make links to SMSC through the whole of our curriculum – see SMSC Policy.

SMSC links to RE through:

- Experiencing awe and wonder of the world, through different stories, celebrations and rituals within our world.
- Having the opportunity to ask and reflect upon meaningful questions.
- Discussing ideas/questions about God and evaluating given responses.
- Exploring whole school and class worship times, thinking about the impact these have on our own lives and the lives of others.
- Exploring morality through the teachings within Christianity, Judaism and Islam.
- Exploring injustice in the world, both through religious perspectives and own reflections on this.
- Having the opportunity to contribute to our school's charity group (Year 6 children).
- Considering the needs of people who are less fortunate than us, through fundraising for different charities.
- Exploring our Christian values, thinking carefully about why these are important within our society.
- Exploring our British values, again thinking about why these have a place within our society.
- Understanding demographic processes through the nominations of school council members (KS2 children).
- Exploring similarities and differences between faiths and cultures.
- Looking at a variety of texts and artefacts from different cultures.

SEND Provision

Through inclusion for all, we strive to ensure that every child fulfils their own potential. We want all children to develop a sense of themselves as unique and precious. Teachers will plan RE sessions with children's needs and abilities in mind. As with all areas of the curriculum, differentiation ensures that children will receive further support if needed.

British Values

Within RE, we recognise and respect people of different faiths. We give children the opportunity to discuss the importance of rules and the consequences of not following these. We want everyone to be able to talk freely about their own personal beliefs and practices without fear. We want to provide a safe place to explore the ultimate questions and challenges of life in today's society and give children the opportunity to engage in thoughtful, reflective dialogue with other faiths and traditions.

Resources

Resource boxes are available to enhance the teaching of our RE curriculum. The Understanding Christianity resource is also available for all staff.

Assessment and Reporting

Each teacher aims to provide incisive marking to each piece of RE work, with probing questions to develop each child's thinking. On completion of each RE unit of work, each child completes their own learning ladder to show whether they feel they have achieved each objective taught in accordance with guidance from our RE syllabus. These are then completed by the class teacher. These objectives are taken from each unit of the Blackburn syllabus. RE is then tracked by each class teacher on our school's protracker. Learning and development within RE is reported to parents at the end of each academic year.

Leadership and Monitoring

The RE leader (RE Subject Champion) is given time within each half term to complete book monitoring, look at planning, analyse data and conduct pupil interviews. Book monitoring is also completed by the Head Teacher and Deputy Head. Lesson observations are also conducted by the Head Teacher, Deputy Head, Year group leaders and RE Subject Champion.

The Subject Champion is given the opportunity to ensure own knowledge and expertise is up to date through CPD. The Subject Champion will also lead staff meetings to share this knowledge and expertise, and this will also be shared with governors. The Subject Champion will also complete parts of the School Improvement Plan (where necessary) and this will again be shared with governors.

Governors also monitor pupils' knowledge, skills and understanding in RE through informal observations, learning walks, pupil interviews, and scrutiny of pupils' books and class RE Logs.

Parental Right of Withdrawal

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from Religious Education. When children join our school parents are made aware that:

'The Worship and Religious Education provided by our school is in accordance with the Church of England Foundation. This foundation is also reflected in the curriculum and the whole life of the school community. Since the conduct of the school as a whole reflects the Church of England ethos, removal of pupils from Worship and/or Religious Education (as parents are legally entitled to do) cannot insulate them from the religious life of the school.'

If a request for withdrawal from RE is made, parents will be asked to meet with the Headteacher who will explore the reasons for the request and seek to arrive at an accommodation.

Review

This policy will be reviewed every two years.

Date of review: 24th January 2019

Next review: January 2021