



ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS C OF E (VA) PRIMARY SCHOOL

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

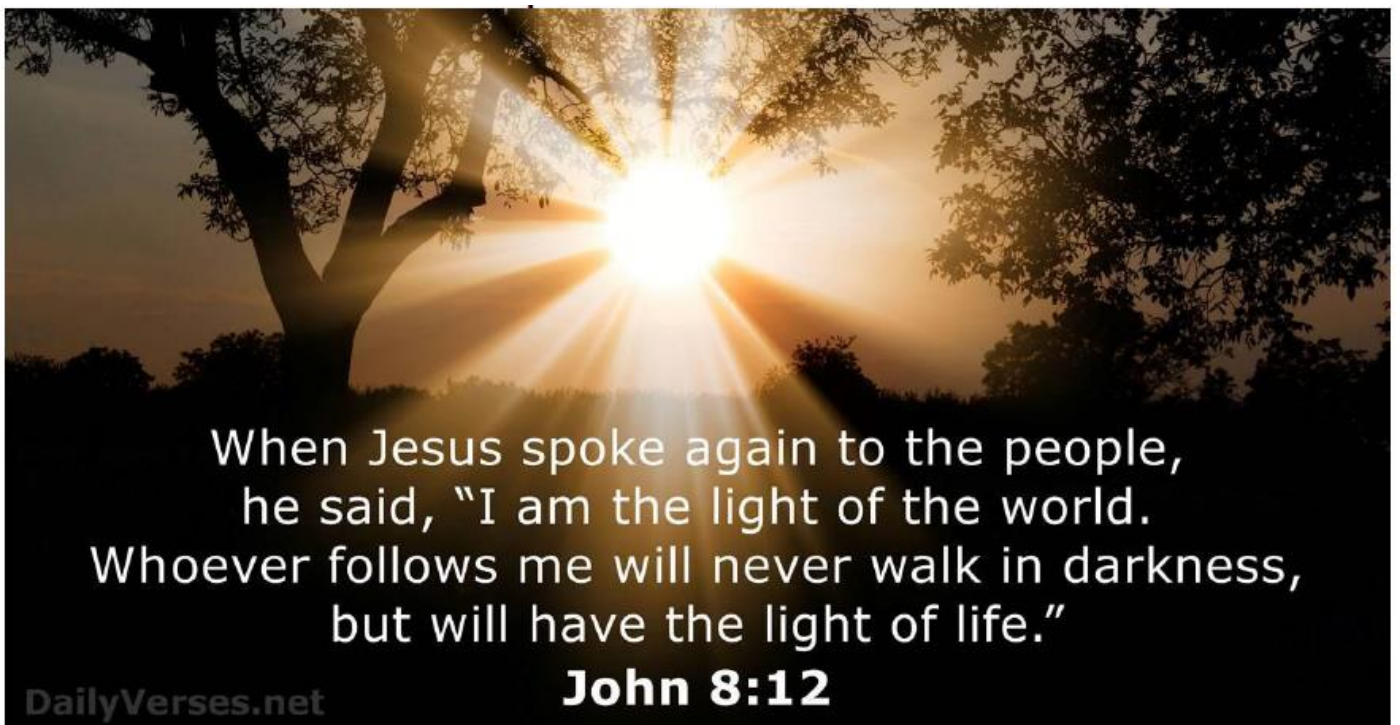
Religious Education in our school is of the highest standard, always striving for excellence, reflecting the school's distinctive Christian character.

At St. Michael & All Angels Church of England Primary School we believe that Religious Education plays a vital role in living out the school Ethos. School shares strong links with the local church. Together, we hold a strong Christian identity and work in collaboration to uphold this in everything we do. All children are valued equally and taught the Values of Jesus. Our Christian Virtues are modelled by all staff in school and children are taught the importance of these and to uphold them.

At St Michael & All Angels Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School the Religious Education provided is in conformity with the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England as laid down in the trust deed.

R.E. plays a major part in promoting the Christian aims, virtues and ethos of the school as expressed in our School Vision.

SCHOOL VISION ROOTED IN SCRIPTURE



When Jesus spoke again to the people,
he said, "I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life."

In Voluntary Aided Schools, the management of religious Education is a distinctive role of the governors and Head Teacher. RE has to be in accordance with the Trust Deed and in accordance with the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England. The Governing Body as a whole is responsible for determining the nature of Religious Education provided within the School.

At St Michael & All Angels we use the R.E. Syllabus produced by the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education. This reflects the national framework for RE, the national society statement of entitlement and the requirements of SIAMs.

Religious Education in a Church School lies at the heart of the curriculum; RE occupies a minimum of 5% of curriculum time each week. This does not include time spent on worship. Although, RE and Worship naturally compliment and enrich one another, these are managed separately within the School. Some elements of Religious Education are delivered through our Collective Worship for example, festivals stories about Jesus and stories Jesus told.

At Advent, Christmas, Easter or Pentecost more RE time may be devoted to Religious Education, reflecting the Christian traditions of the school.

In our School, we use the Blackburn Diocese Board of Education syllabus for RE 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 make links between the beliefs, practices and the values system 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 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.

"Christianity should be the majority study in RE in every School. In Church Schools that should be clearly adhered to. In key Stage 1 -3 at least 2/3rds of the RE curriculum is to be Christianity. Sufficient dedicated delivery time, meeting 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 Office Education Office 2016.

The teaching of Christianity takes up 80% of RE curriculum time and the other 20% of time includes appropriate teaching about other major world faiths and views.

CURRICULUM AIMS

The aims of religious education at St Michael & All Angels Primary School are:

- 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 views and insight;
- To contribute to the development of pupils' own spiritual/philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own beliefs and values;

Appropriate to age at their end of education in Church Schools the expectations 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.

RE statement of entitlement: The Church of England Office Education Office 2016.

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 emphatic 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 Church Schools should also help pupils to:

- Learn about other faiths, their beliefs, traditions and practices and from them through encounter and dialogue;
- Recognise and respect those of all other 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 Church Schools should help 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 today in today's pluralist and post-modern society;
- 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 Church Schools should enable:

- 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 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 ultimate questions and challenges of life in today's society.

By the time, children leave our school it is envisaged that they will have received a thorough knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith. This will include beliefs about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. The children will learn about people of the Bible and more recent followers of Christianity. They will have had experience of a worshipping community at St Michael & All Angels Church.

We are developing close links with St Michael & All Angels Church, Foulridge. Some festival services and Saints Days are celebrated in Church with the whole school. Parents are invited to join us for these. The Vicar has regular contact with the children through leading acts of worship at school and in Church. He also comes into classes to talk to the children about Holy Communion, faith, being a Christian and his role in the Church.

Church distinctiveness at St Michael & All Angels CE School:

The RE curriculum provides pupils with:

- opportunities to explore the experience of the Church's year;
- study of the story of the local Christian community with its saints and martyrs;
- visits to places of worship, especially the local parish Church and a Cathedral, to develop the understanding of the Church as a living community;
- welcoming visitors from the local parish to share their experience of Christian belief and life;
- liaison with the local parish to enable these visits and links to occur;
- skills to confidently use religious language to express knowledge and opinions;
- a well-used set of Bibles in language that can be understood by the learners and examples of Bibles and prayer books from a variety of contexts;
- the facility to listen to Christian 'psalms, hymns and spiritual songs' from a wide variety of traditions;
- access to Christian artefacts that are used with care, respect and confidence;

- a sacred space in every classroom and around school that can be used as a focus for prayer and silent reflection;
- a prayer garden that can be used as a focus for prayer and silent reflection.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development

Religious Education makes a significant contribution to the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. RE provides opportunities for pupils of all backgrounds to explore the following in a safe environment:

- Spiritual development within our RE curriculum enriches and encourages the pupils' discovery of God the creator, of their 'inmost being' and of the wonder of the environment;
- Moral development is based on the teaching of Jesus Christ, which offers pupils a secure foundation stone on which to make decisions and build their lives;
- Social development enriches pupils' understanding of what it means to live in a Christian community where Jesus' command to love another is put in to practice;
- Cultural development provides opportunities to develop and understanding of Christianity as a worldwide, multi-cultural faith that has an impact on the lives of millions of peoples.

CONTENT AND APPROACHES

The content of RE in our school is in accordance with the beliefs and traditions of the Church of England. We follow the Blackburn Diocese Board of Education syllabus, which is supported by appropriate resources. 'Understanding Christianity' also supports with our delivery of the core Christian concepts and other themes and values.

Each class teacher is responsible for teaching RE to his or her year group. A variety of teaching methods are used which include listening to Bible stories, discussion, drama, ICT and research tasks, written work including narrative, poetry and prayer. Children also produce art work based on RE themes or listen to spiritual music. Each child has an individual (purple) RE book and class teachers maintain class RE scrapbooks to support with recording class discussions and assessment.

INCLUSION

As in all subjects, the class teacher is responsible for meeting the different needs and abilities of every child in the class and therefore activities are differentiated appropriately. More able children are challenged with higher order questions and activities that demand extended thinking skills. Children with SEND are given work that allows them to access the content of the

curriculum and may have support from a teaching assistant if this is deemed appropriate. Teachers must be aware that a lack of writing skills does not automatically mean that a child is not capable of working at a high level within this subject.

ASSESSMENT

To ensure progression during the children's time at St Michael & All Angels C of E Primary School teachers use the Blackburn Diocese Board of Education 'ladder of expectation' to support with making judgements about children's level of achievement in RE. This also helps to ensure quality, challenging tasks are used with the children and planning is at a correct level for the age group and experience of the children. Additionally, class teachers provide a termly overview to the RE subject leader with a breakdown of attainment in Year groups from Year 1 - 6. We have also introduced self-assessment ladders for each unit of work, which enables children to reflect on their own learning and progress. Classes also maintain a class RE Scrapbook to support with informing the assessment process.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE POLICY

Sara Richardson/Michelle Coffey (RE Subject Leaders) are the people responsible for the co-ordination of this policy and RE throughout the School.

Role of the RE subject leader:

- Gives RE a high profile and status as a core subject across the School;
- Ensures RE is alive and visible in the School;
- Monitors and evaluates standards in RE by observing RE lessons, talking to children, conducting walk rounds and looking at RE books/class RE Scrapbooks as part of the ongoing monitoring and evaluation cycle;
- Meet regularly with the RE governor and report to the governing body as appropriate;
- Attends 'cluster' group meetings each term/INSET to keep up-to-date on developments in the subject and disseminate this to staff;
- Keep a portfolio of a sample of children's work;
- Keeps photographs of RE activities/displays around the School;
- Ensures that parents are given information about progress in RE at the two parents' evenings each year and via a written report at the end of the summer term;
- Purchases resources for the subject;
- Liaise with the local clergy with regard to supporting the RE syllabus in School;
- Update the RE policy every two years;

PARENTS' RIGHT TO WITHDRAW A CHILD FROM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN A VOLUNTARY AIDED SCHOOL

Parents may withdraw their children from Religious Education as they may in any School and this opportunity is published in our School website.

The Worship and Religious Education provided by the 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 such a request for withdrawal is made, the Head Teacher should explore the reasons for the request and seek to arrive at an accommodation. It may be that only some elements of Religious Education or Worship are objected to.

RE Subject leaders - Sara Richardson (Head Teacher) & Michelle Coffey (Deputy Headteacher)

This policy was approved by the governing body **November 2021** and will be reviewed in 2 years.

Date: November 2021