



**St Peter's C.E. Primary School,**

## **Religious Education Policy**

**Date of policy - September 2019**

## **Vision**

**As a Christian family at St Peter's School, we create a unique place of learning, nurturing the gifts that God in his awesomeness has given us. We encourage every child and prepare them for life's journey, inspiring them to fulfil their potential, their dreams and their aspirations.**

**Sowing the seeds of tomorrow**

**Matthew 13:1-23**

The significance of Religious Education (RE) at St Peter's is reflected in the words of the Ethos group who say,

"RE is amazing because we get to learn about all the things God and Jesus have done for us. It gives us chance to reflect on our choices, share our faith together and learn from other people who have different faiths and believe different things to us. RE challenges us to think deeply about our blessings and discover new knowledge about the world. Everything we learn about in RE helps us to live our lives to the fullest."

St Peter's Ethos Group, September 2019

## **Aims**

At St Peter's we strive to be exceptional in all that we do and provide a Religious Education curriculum that reflects our vision. As a Church of England school, at St. Peter's you can expect an RE curriculum that is rich and varied, enabling learners to acquire a thorough knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith. Our aim is to 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 studied. We recognise the children as individuals and educate them according to their rights in law, whilst providing opportunities for the children to fulfil their potential mentally, physically, socially, emotionally and spiritually. 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.

### **The aims of teaching RE at St. Peter's 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 ideas and insights.
- To contribute to the development of pupils' own spiritual/philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own beliefs and values.

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

**Religious Education at St. Peter's 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 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.

### **Curriculum Planning**

Throughout the Foundation Stage, KS1 and KS2 there is a deepening of knowledge and understanding of religious beliefs, practices, moral values and the nature of Christianity.

The governors adopt the RE syllabus produced by the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education. This is supported by units from the Understanding Christianity syllabus produced by the Church of England Education Office. This fulfils all legal requirements and the RE Statement of Entitlement from the Church of England Education Office 2016.

The themes for Worship, (see separate Worship Policy for further details), will allow for links to be made between the learning in RE and the worship of the school and to give the pupils opportunities to express their understanding in different ways.

### **Teaching and learning style**

As in all other areas of the curriculum, a variety of teaching and learning strategies will be used; we hope that all of these will provide good, imaginative lessons with an interesting and challenging variety of tasks. RE has strong links with many other areas of the curriculum, activities include:

- Drama and role play - speaking and listening
- Collaborative and independent work
- Discussion and presentation
- Visits
- Use of artefacts/images
- ICT resources
- Visitors and outside speakers
- Creative activities - interpreting religious artwork
- Art and Design activities

- Use of music and instruments from different religions, composing own hymns
- Reading/Writing
- Use of Key Questions
- Exploration of self-awareness, inner feelings and emotions, and personal relationships and promote respect for the beliefs and values of others
- P.E. and learning religious dances

When appropriate, additional RE lessons will be taught to ensure coverage of major faith festivals and celebrations such as Ramadan, Eid, Harvest and Diwali. Year groups may also choose to cover an additional religion as a blocked topic, for example Chinese New Year in Reception. The school may also deliver additional sessions to celebrate key festivals and events.

### **Teaching Religious Education to children with special educational needs**

St. Peter's CE Primary School is committed to the inclusion of all pupils, regardless of age, race, gender or disability and expects all members of our school community to share in this commitment. Pupils of all levels of ability will be catered for in RE lessons. Different forms of recording, including oral, ICT and adult scribing, will support the children who have difficulty recording their ideas.

### **Links to British Values**

The fundamental British Values of Democracy, Rule of Law, Individual Liberty, Mutual Respect and Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs are taught through worship and the planning and delivery of a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of all pupils. RE makes a significant contribution to the promotion of these British Values, particularly respect and understanding for those of different faiths and beliefs. RE lessons ensure that pupils have an appreciation of the culturally diverse society we live in. The celebration of a variety of festivals and national and religious events encourages pupils to research and discover similarities and differences between different religions and communities. Members of different faiths and religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning during RE.

### **Assessment and recording**

Progression in RE is ensured through the use of a 'ladder of expectations of achievement.' This set of statements is used to assess children's learning, knowledge and understanding of RE.

Using the syllabus provided by Blackburn Diocese, we provide both continuity and progression for pupils across all strands of R.E. and throughout both key stages. Some themes (for example, Christmas, Easter and Pentecost) will be visited several times throughout a pupil's time at St Peter's School, however, a different approach will be used each time (and a different area covered) so that progression is seen in both the quality and depth of learning.

Each unit will end with an assessment task or activity to show the understanding of the pupils as well as an ongoing assessment from the contributions the pupils make in class. Evidence of pupil work is completed in the 'Class RE Floor book', individually in pupils' books and on the display walls within classrooms/around the school corridors.

### **Complaints about the provision of Religious Education**

It is hoped that any complaint will be resolved informally by the Headteacher. There is also provision for complaints to be heard by a Committee of the Governing Body, possibly with advice from the Diocese or District. However, if the complaint is still not satisfactorily resolved, then further procedures come into play and the matter will be adjudicated by a specially constituted sub-committee of the Diocesan Board of Education acting on behalf of the Bishop of the Diocese.

### **Monitoring and Review**

The governing body will review this policy every three years. However, it may be reviewed earlier if new government regulations are introduced, or if the governing body receives recommendations on how the policy might be improved.

**Signed:**

**Date:**

**Review date:** Autumn 2019