



## **Dolphinholme CE Primary School** **Religious Education Policy**

### **Mission Statement:**

**‘With God at the heart of everything we do,  
We educate by encouraging a sense of wonder,  
praise and mutual respect.  
We offer every child opportunities for success,  
Making them confidently equipped for life’s journey.’**

This policy outlines the teaching and learning of Religious Education at Dolphinholme Church of England Primary School. The implementation of the policy is the responsibility of all the teaching staff and the management of RE is a distinctive role of the Governors and Headteacher. High quality Religious Education is an essential part of a balanced curriculum and commitment to RE demonstrates commitment to the nurturing of each individual child.

In this Church of England Voluntary Aided School, the Governing Body as a whole is responsible for determining the nature of Religious Education. At Dolphinholme School, RE plays a major part in promoting the Christian aims, values and ethos of our school. God is the very centre of our family and we aim to be imitators of him – living our lives in the way we know he would want us to live them. This is reflected in our Mission Statement. As a school we have adopted the Blackburn Diocesan 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.

RE lies at the very heart of our curriculum. We have an 80% focus on Christianity and 20% focus on other world religions. We feel that it is really important for our children to learn about and learn from all world religions. The teaching and learning of RE encourages a sense of respect and tolerance to one another, which is embedded in the fabric of everything our children and staff do. As with all subjects children are challenged and deeper knowledge and insight is gained.

10% of the curriculum each week is given to the teaching of and learning through RE. Most of this is through formal lessons but Religious Education and Collective Worship naturally compliment and enrich one another. Collective worship occurs on a daily basis but does not form part of this policy. A variety of styles are used to teach RE including drama, art, singing and writing.

*“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*

**INSPIRING SUCCESS, CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT**

I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

John 15:5

*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*

*"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*

The aims of Religious Education **in Church Schools** 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

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.

RE Statement of Entitlement: The Church of England 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 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 Church Schools should also help pupils to:**



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- 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 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 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 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 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.

**RE makes a significant contribution to pupils' Spiritual, Moral Social and Cultural development:**

- Spiritual development, which enriches and encourages the pupils' discovery of the reality of God and their relationship with Him
- Moral development, which is based on the teachings of Jesus Christ, offering pupils a secure foundation on which to make decisions and build their lives
- Social development, which enriches pupils' understanding of what it means to live as a member of a Christian community where Jesus's command to love one another is put into practice
- Cultural development, which provides opportunities to develop an understanding of Christianity as a worldwide, multi-cultural faith that has an impact on the lives of millions of people.



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## Special Educational Needs

All children follow the agreed Blackburn Diocesan Syllabus. The needs of individual children are met through differentiated planning in line with school planning policy and Individual Education Plans.

The teaching of RE contributes greatly to the insight children gain into Christian and British values, and how to live these out in our daily lives. Values are clearly linked to the topics covered in the syllabus followed. Each half term the children have a theme to discuss and learn on a particular value. A worship and class discussion looks at these values in greater depth.

- Resources are managed by the RE co-ordinator. The resources are kept centrally in the loft and in the reprographics room to allow easy access by staff. A class set of Bibles are also kept in KS2.
- Assessment and record keeping is kept in accordance with guidance given in the BDBE RE Syllabus. At the present time this is under review as the new syllabus is embedded. Teachers will continue an overall assessment at the end of the year identifying where they feel each child is and the progress made. After each topic the children will undertake a self- assessment of the 'I can' and 'I know' statements given to show the learning and understanding that has taken place. More focus on assessment will follow in the coming year.

## Withdrawal from RE

The Worship and Religious Education provided by the school is in accordance with the Church of England. 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 Headteacher will explore the reasons for the request and seek to arrive at a mutually agreed decision.

Parents may request the governing body to provide Religious Education for their children according to the locally Agreed Syllabus. This can only be requested when parents cannot, with reasonable convenience, arrange for their children to attend another school where Religious Education is provided according to the locally Agreed Syllabus. The governing board **should** make provision unless the circumstances make it unreasonable to do so.

Should the governing board be unable to make such arrangements for Religious Education to be delivered according to the Agreed Syllabus, the responsibility for doing so then falls on the Local Authority. The Local Authority may decide that such a request for separate Religious Education is unreasonable and the parental request then fails.

**RE Subject Leader: Dianne Cross**

**Review date: January 2021**

