

**St. Andrew's C.E. J&I School**  
**Diocese of Liverpool**  
**Religious Education Policy**

**School Mission Statement**

As a Christian school, we look to Jesus as our role model. Following his example we want to learn to be patient with one another, respecting others both within school and in the wider community.

We want to feel safe and have fun, so that we can become happy, confident learners. Our individuality will be celebrated: developing our sense of self-worth and instilling us with positive aspirations and the desire to fulfil them.

**Mission Statement for RE**

We believe that through sound, well-structured, creative Religious Education teaching and the commitment to giving honest and appropriate answers to the many and varied questions of children in our care, the spiritual, moral, social, cultural, as well as the academic development of each child can be enhanced. As a Church School, RE lies at the very heart of the curriculum.

**As a Voluntary Aided School** the management of RE is a distinctive role of the governors, headteacher and the Excellence and Distinctiveness Leader. RE is taught 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 in the school.

Although RE and Collective Worship naturally compliment and enrich one another they are managed separately (please see Collective Worship Policy).

**Content of and time allocation for RE**

- Governors have adopted the Liverpool Diocesan Board of Education Syllabus for RE which reflects the National Framework for RE
- at least 5% of curriculum time is devoted to RE
- Christianity plays a central role in RE, taking up 80% of the time available, Christianity will be taught as a multi-cultural faith
- The other 20% is devoted to the teaching of other World Faiths

**The RE curriculum maintains a balanced approach:**

**Learning about Religion (Attainment Target 1)**

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
- Religious stories, traditions, practices, symbols and beliefs from a range of World Faiths
- Identifying similarities and differences between religions; learning about shared values and beliefs.

**Learning from Religion (Attainment Target 2)**

We learn from:

- an empathetic response to the Christian faith and stories from the Bible and a critical engagement with it
- responding personally to the transforming power of Jesus Christ
- developing a vision for life that transcends a dull materialism and recognises the reality of the spiritual realm
- understanding ourselves and others, celebrating our shared humanity and shared values and the breadth of human achievement
- examples of Christian living which give priority to the claims of justice, mercy, holiness and love

## **RE helps pupils to:**

- think theologically and explore the great questions of life and death, meaning and purpose
- reflect critically on the truth claims of Christian belief
- see how the truth of Christianity is relevant today and face the challenge of Jesus' teaching in modern society
- develop the skills to handle the Bible text
- recognise that faith is not based on a positive balance of probabilities but on commitment to a particular way of understanding God and the world
- respond in terms of beliefs, commitments and ways of living
- 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 them in difficult circumstances and in the face of opposition.

## **RE equips pupils to recognise the common search of all humanity for ultimate truth and relationship with the divine. RE helps pupils to:**

- learn about other faiths, their beliefs, traditions and practices and learn 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
- recognise the common human quest for justice, peace and love and the common goal of the survival of life on this planet.

## **The RE Curriculum will also include:**

- opportunities to explore the experience of the Church's year
- visits to places of worship, especially the local parish Church and the 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
- support for the pupils; confident use of religious language
- 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 and 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 that can be used as a focus for prayer and silent reflection
- encouragement of mutual respect based on Christian values, where pupils and teachers are able 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 to talk openly about their beliefs and values in lessons and to grow in their faith
- pupils with no religious background to face the challenge of the Christian faith
- pupils of all backgrounds to have a safe place to explore the place of doubt and certainty in a maturing faith.

## **The significant contribution RE makes to pupils' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development.**

Spiritual development within RE in a Church School 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 teachings of Jesus Christ and Christian values, which offer 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 one another is put into practice. Cultural development 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.

Exploring shared values with other religions provides opportunities for pupils to appreciate the shared values of humanity.

## **SEN provision**

Tasks within RE will be differentiated to cater for the needs of all pupils. The use of open-ended tasks will also be used so that children can complete the task according to their own depth of understanding, through media that the child is able to express themselves fully e.g. art-work, mind-maps, comic strips, posters, discussions etc.

## **Resources**

All RE resources are stored centrally to ensure that they can be accessed by all year groups; they are stored in large, clearly labelled boxes. Big Books purchased for RE are stored with the other Big Books. Text books and Bibles are stored centrally. Resources purchased to support the teaching of a specific unit of work may be stored in the relevant classroom. We follow the RE syllabus provided by Liverpool Diocese and it is available on the staff shared area of the computer network within school, along with the 'Understanding Christianity' resources that support it.

## **Assessment**

At the end of each term children will complete a task set at a particular level. Completion of the task will confirm that the child has reached the appropriate level for their age. (Following Diocesan Recommendation)

## **Parental Rights of Withdrawal**

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 Headteacher will explore the reasons for the request and seek to arrive at an accommodation.

## **Monitoring and Review**

Monitoring the policy and the RE curriculum is the role of a named school governor (Jayne Donnellan). The governor concerned liaises with the headteacher and Excellence and Distinctiveness Leader before reporting to the governors.

This policy will be reviewed at least every two years.