

**DARWEN ST JAMES'**



## **R.E Policy**

## **Mission Statement**

Nurturing ambition through a living faith.

## **Vision**

Our Academy delivers a purposeful curriculum through its living Christian faith. We nurture ambition in all our learners in order for them to become positive citizens of tomorrow.

## **Bible**

‘Let us not love with words or speech alone but with actions and truth.’ 1 John 3:18

## **Requirements**

At Darwen St. James we meet the requirements of the Church of England Statement of Entitlement for Religious Education which states ‘Sufficient dedicated curriculum time, meeting explicit RE objectives, however organised, should be committed to the delivery of R.E. This should aim to be close to 10% but must be no less than 5% in key stage 1-4.’ Please see Appendix 1 for more information.

## **Parental right of withdrawal from R.E**

SACRE Guidance on Withdrawal from RE suggests that parents have the right to withdraw their child from R.E on the grounds that they wish to provide their own R.E provision. Parents also have the right to withdraw their child from part of R.E and can do so without giving any explanation.

## **Syllabus**

Guidance is taken from the Blackburn Diocese Board of Education and units of work are adapted from the online Questful R.E Syllabus; overall, approximately 80% of study is focussed on Christianity and 20% the study of World Faiths. In some units the focus on the study of World Faiths is increased. The units are supplemented with additional resources from the diocese recommended Understanding Christianity Units. All units taught link to the resources on God’s Big Plan.

## **World Faith Units**

The Questful R.E syllabus makes links to World faiths and Worldviews (including non religious views). Children are encouraged to explore and discover information about the beliefs and practices of World faiths, ask meaningful questions, make comparisons, identify similarities and differences and make connections to their own experiences.

## **Planning**

Our R.E curriculum is taken from the Questful R.E Unit Plans for children in Pre School - Year 6. Staff annotate these plans to provide a range of age appropriate, challenging and creative lessons. The units last between 2 and 7 hours, however the number of hours advised on the planning is a minimum and staff adapt this to meet the needs of the children in their class.

The children in Nursery learn a variety of Bible stories and these are linked with our school values. The children also have the opportunity to learn and explore World Faith festivals as they happen, for example Diwali and Eid.

## **Presentation of Work**

R.E work is completed either in individual exercise books or a Class Big Book. Children in Nursery, Reception and Years 1 use a Class Big Book only and evidence all the lessons in there. Years 2 to year 6 also have an individual R.E exercise book and evidence half the unit in each book. Staff consider which pieces of work lend themselves to each book based on the evidence they are creating. For example photographs of children working outside the classroom or using drama techniques will go in the Class Big Book whereas cross curricular writing will be completed in the individual exercise books.

## **Marking**

Marking follows the DSJ Marking Policy. If a teacher feels an R.E related comment is necessary, then they are free to provide this in order to enhance children's understanding and spiritual development. Teachers also use growth mindset comments when marking in R.E to celebrate the children's work and effort.

Marking in Class Big Books takes the form of annotating children's work and recording children's comments and statements that show their learning and understanding.

## **Assessment**

Assessment takes place once per term in Pre School to Year 6. Staff use the Questful RE map, class discussions and the assessment grids (adapted from the ladder of expectation from Questful RE) to assess the children's understanding of the unit. They decide whether each child has understood the concept, shown a deeper understanding or not understood the concept taught and make an overall judgement and annotate it on the class assessment sheet. The units that are assessed across school are Christmas (Autumn term), Easter (Spring term) and Jesus (Summer term). Nursery children are not formally assessed.

## **SEND**

Provision for children with additional needs or SEND will follow the DSJ SEND policy and where applicable their learning plan. Children with additional needs or SEND will be supported through adaptive teaching and learning, allowing them access to all areas of the RE curriculum.

## **Additional Learning and Experiences**

It is our aim at Darwen St. James to provide a wide and varied curriculum and as such take every opportunity to widen the children's breadth of learning with guest speakers, visitors, drama productions and workshops to name a few.

Visits to places of worship are arranged as part of the R.E curriculum, as are visits by members from all faith communities. This brings the curriculum to life and gives children an opportunity to encounter a variety of World views and World Faiths. Visits to places of worship give children the opportunity to see religious practices, such as the Eucharist or a Baptism, performed by a faith leader.

Children from years four and five attend an annual Diocesan conference, the Pupil's R.E, Worship and EDJ Conferences, along with children from schools across the diocese.

An annual Diocesan R.E Co-ordinators Conference is attended by the R.E Co-ordinator. This is an opportunity to share good practice and to remain up to date with new developments with other R.E

co-ordinators in the diocese. The RE co-ordinator also attends RE network cluster meetings on a termly basis. Other Diocese training is attended as linked to priorities or need in school. The RE co-ordinator leads staff meetings to share information and disseminated training from the conference and other training. The RE co-ordinator reports to the Governing Board at least once a year.

The RE and Worship link Governor is Mrs Michaela Underwood.