

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 and accountability

At Darwen St. James, we fully adhere to the January 2026 Church of England Statement of Entitlement for Religious Education (for implementation by September 2026).

- **Curriculum Time:** In line with the Statement, senior leaders ensure that sufficient dedicated curriculum time, meeting explicitly RE objectives, is committed to the delivery of RE. This aims to be close to 10% but is **no less than 5%** of curriculum time.
- **SIAMS Accountability:** School accountability is monitored through the SIAMS inspection process, which uses this Statement of Entitlement as its point of reference for expectations in RE under Inspection Questions 6 and 7 (**IQ6 and IQ7**).

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 and National Content Standard

Guidance is taken from the Blackburn Diocese Board of Education, and units of work are adapted from the online Questful R.E Syllabus.

- **National Content Standard (NCS):** Our curriculum strives to achieve the breadth, depth, and ambition outlined in the non-statutory National Content Standard for RE, ensuring an objective, critical, and pluralistic approach.
- **Curriculum Balance:** Christianity is the main religious worldview studied, comfortably exceeding the national minimum requirement of **at least 50% of curriculum time** in each phase (currently sitting at approximately 80%). The remaining curriculum time (approximately 20%) is dedicated to a range of religious and non-religious worldviews.
- **Academic Status:** RE is treated as a high-profile academic subject, remaining entirely separate and distinct from collective worship.

Worldviews and Disciplinary Knowledge

The Questful R.E. syllabus is utilized to explore a multi-religious and multi-secular world. The curriculum ensures pupils develop disciplinary knowledge to become religiously literate by looking through three specific disciplinary lenses:

1. **Theology:** Engaging critically with religious and non-religious source materials, including biblical texts and key sources of authority.
2. **Philosophy:** Grappling with questions of meaning, purpose, and truth raised by human existence.
3. **Human and Social Sciences:** Understanding the roles of texts, beliefs, rituals, and practices, and how they shape identity in different times, cultures, and places.

Classrooms are maintained as safe, supportive spaces where pupils are given regular opportunities to articulate, navigate, and explore their own personal worldviews alongside respectful dialogue with others

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 can also use growth mindset comments when marking in R.E to celebrate the children's work and effort.

Assessment

Assessment takes place once per term from Pre-School to Year 6. In accordance with the 2026 Statement of Entitlement, our assessment framework is based upon accurate and inclusive tracking of the different forms of knowledge (substantive and disciplinary knowledge), enabling all pupils to make clear progress in their learning. Staff use the Questful RE map, class discussions, and adapted assessment grids to determine whether a child has understood the concept, shown a deeper understanding, or requires further support.

SEND

Provision for children with additional needs or SEND follows the DSJ SEND policy. In alignment with national expectations, the curriculum is carefully sequenced and adaptively taught to ensure that all pupils are enabled to achieve highly in RE, irrespective of educational need or disadvantage.

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 five and six 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.