



## KNUZDEN St OSWALD'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY ACADEMY

### RE POLICY

#### MISSION STATEMENT

*Encouraging God's Children with Courage, Compassion and Creativity*

#### OUR CORE VALUES

Kindness, Politeness, Patience, Respect, and Self-Control, all firmly rooted in Agape, Love

##### **KINDNESS/POLITENESS**

To teach our children to be kind and polite to all in good times and in adversity, as one has no idea what others are going through #justbenice

##### **PATIENCE**

To develop a community where God's love and grace can be reflected upon, and a positive peace of mind and purpose in life can be found

##### **RESPECT**

To foster respect for all in our school community, and compassion for those in the local and global communities

##### **SELF-CONTROL**

To teach our children to face challenges, developing resilience and empathy, whilst fostering self-confidence and a positive approach to learning

#### Our Vision

Through and with our biblical quote, '*Stand firm in the faith and do everything with love*' 1 Corinthians 16.13, we aim to create a loving school and work family community where everyone is valued and can flourish. Our quote is an affirmation that we are part of God's huge plan, and that, although the road may not always be smooth, we must be strong and be courageous. We stand firm in the faith, doing the right thing, not the easy thing and we do everything with love at the core.

At St Oswald's, Religious Education is an integral part of our school life. We are a Church of England Primary Academy with a Christian Foundation and as such Christianity forms the basis of all the teaching in school and how we treat each other. Religious Education at St Oswald's reflects our Christian Values and ethos. It is a rich, secure setting in which children can learn, grow and equip themselves for life. Religious Education is provided in conformity with the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England as laid down in the Trust Deed. The Spiritual Development of all within the school community is seen as fundamental.

As a Church of England Primary Academy, we encourage our children to be inspired by the life and example of Jesus Christ. We strive to provide the best possible education for the children in our care, recognising their unique gifts and personalities, and seeking to promote excellence in both behaviour and work. Our aim is to nurture the children's essential individuality with a secure, happy and ordered environment, reflecting the love of the family of God. Children at St Oswald's are taught to recognise their own self-worth and potential and to respect other people's views, culture and religion.

We believe that Religious Education has a vital part to play in the education of children of primary age. The subject is concerned with:

- Developing knowledge, understanding and awareness of Christianity and other principal religions
- Fostering a sense of awe and wonder
- Encouraging respect for those holding different beliefs
- Promoting spiritual, moral, cultural and emotional development

Work in RE will contribute to the development of certain general study skills. It is used as a vehicle for developing reading and writing skills but also speaking and listening skills. Challenge is provided for children of all abilities.

### **The Curriculum**

In our Church School, RE lies at the very heart of the curriculum. As a school, we have adopted the Blackburn Diocese Board of Education syllabus for RE 'Questful 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 between two thirds and three quarters of the time available, leaving time to study appropriate teaching of other World Faiths.

### **Questful RE**

The syllabus we have adopted promotes the explicit teaching of Christian concepts and God's big salvation story, therefore the content of this syllabus gives pupils a deeper understanding of Christianity. Through an open investigative enquiry approach pupils are given the opportunity to explore major religions and world views. The large number of questions included in each unit is a key feature of the syllabus. As pupils explore these questions they will discover more about themselves, their relationships with others, their relationship with the world around them and their relationship with God.

The curriculum content is a balance of the three essential disciplines of quality RE, Theology, Philosophy and Social Science. This means pupils will look at concepts through a theological lens, exploring what people of faith believe. Alongside this pupils will explore questions and answers raised in relation to the lived reality and impact of religion and world views on people's lives. They will also think like philosophers, and be equipped with the skills that will enable them to make sense of life's experiences.

The Syllabus we use for RE, prepares children for citizenship in today's diverse society. It enables them to develop sensitivity to, and respect for others. Through authentic encounters with living faith communities, pupils will develop diversity dexterity and be equipped with the ability to hold an informed conversation about religious beliefs and practices.

### **Assessment and Record Keeping**

We have a variety of resources available in school and online to support the teaching of the Christian Faith and other World Religions. Children's work is recorded in their individual RE book and in a class scrap book. Class scrap books are collected in at the end of the year and are used as part of the assessment process. The remainder of our assessment process is completed in accordance with the syllabus we use (Questful RE), where teachers can set appropriate tasks and make judgements as to whether or not pupils in their class are working at, towards or exceeding expectations of achievement. The recording sheet is designed to be used once each term at the end of a unit.

**Parental Right of Withdrawal**

There is right of withdrawal from both RE and the Daily Act of Worship but currently all our pupils of all faiths participate. All pupils are encouraged to participate as we have an Anglican Foundation. If alternative provision for RE/Worship is required, this will be arranged with Head teacher prior to admission.

Marie Mensah

September 2023