



## **Read St. John's Religious Education Policy**

**'Sowing the Seeds of tomorrow; growing in the light of the Lord'**

**(Matthew 13: 1-23)**

**At Read St. John's we aim to unlock the potential for everyone to flourish whilst being rooted and grounded in God's love. We aim high, so together as one family, we can fly.**

### **Intent**

At Read St. John's, religious education enables pupils to explore and enrich their own beliefs and values and to express their ideas and thoughts in a safe and respectful environment. Pupils learn about and understand Christianity as a living faith and reflect and respond personally to the stories and teachings of Jesus. Pupils will have knowledge and understanding of other world religions and cultures enabling them to develop understanding and empathy of how others live. As a school we believe the following four attitudes are essential for good learning and should be developed throughout our teaching of religious education:

- self-awareness. • respect for all. • open-mindedness. • appreciation and wonder.**

Our values permeate throughout all our teaching and learning in all areas of the curriculum. These are:

Service

Respect

Compassion

Perseverance

Forgiveness

Responsibility

Trust

**Religious Education at Read St. John's C of E Primary School lies at the very heart of the curriculum:**

- The Governors have adopted the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education Syllabus for RE which fulfils all legal requirements and meets the RE Statement of Entitlement from the Church of England Education Office 2019;
- At least 5% of curriculum time is devoted to RE;
- Christianity plays a central role in RE, in at least two thirds of the curriculum Christianity is taught;
- RE is provided in accordance with the school's Trust Deed and in accordance with the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England.

Although Religious Education and Collective Worship naturally compliment and enrich one another, they are managed separately.

## **Aims:**

### **The aims of Religious Education at Read St John's Church of England School are:**

To know about and understand Christianity as a diverse global living faith through the exploration of core beliefs using an approach that critically engages with biblical text.

- To gain knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews appreciating diversity, continuity and change within the religions and worldviews being studied.

- To engage with challenging questions of meaning and purpose raised by human existence and experience.

- To recognise the concept of religion and its continuing influence on Britain's cultural heritage and in the lives of individuals and societies in various times, cultures and places.

- To explore their own religious, spiritual and philosophical ways living, believing and thinking.

*RE Statement of Entitlement: The Church of England Education Office 2019*

### **At the end of their education at Read St John's the expectation is that 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.

## **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 at Read St John's helps pupils to:**

- 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.
- 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 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 at Read St. John's enables:**

- 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, and other faiths, to talk openly about their beliefs and values in lessons and to grow 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.

**Implementation**

Our school has adopted the “Questful RE” syllabus produced by the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education for RE, which fulfils all legal requirements and the RE Statement of Entitlement from the Church of England Education Office 2019.

‘Questful RE’ builds on the foundation of the 2007, 2013 and 2017 syllabuses which have been updated and redesigned in content, bringing it in line with current best practice and pedagogical strategies.

By embracing the explicit teaching of Christian concepts and God’s big salvation story, it is hoped that the content of this syllabus will give pupils a deeper understanding of Christianity. In addition, pupils explore all major world faiths and discuss world views where appropriate.

Questful RE takes the children on a quest to discover more about religion and world views where the children will discover more about themselves. As RE develops children’s knowledge and understanding of the nature of religion and belief, it provokes challenging questions about meaning and purpose, truth and values, identity and belonging. Pupils will experience, explore and encounter a wide range of creative and challenging multi-sensory activities that will help them to discover the answers to fundamental questions such as these: –

- Who am I and what does it mean to be me?
- In what ways do/can I relate to others?
- How/where can I encounter God?
- How can I make a positive contribution to the world in which I live?
- What values, attitudes, beliefs and behaviour are important to me?
- What does it mean to have faith?
- Who/what influences and inspires me?

Through an open investigative enquiry approach the pupils will be given the sense of being on a quest of discovery. A key feature of the syllabus is the substantial number of questions included in each unit. The purpose of these questions is to give pupils opportunity to investigate, reflect, evaluate and make meaning. In doing so they will discover more about themselves, their relationships with others, their relationship with the world around them and their relationship with God. The questions set the route through the curriculum content

RE is taught in half termly units in a combination of religion based and thematic topics. Cross curricular links are strongly encouraged and opportunities for developing other areas of the curriculum are planned in.

Inclusion and differentiation for children with SEN and EAL are taken into account in our planning and teaching as they are in all areas of the curriculum. Within the teaching of RE we make the most of opportunities to help the children develop their sensitivity to relevant issues and to develop positive attitudes towards themselves and others.

We endeavour to draw on the varied experiences and backgrounds of our pupils and staff in order to make RE relevant and interesting to our pupils.

Through RE children have the opportunity to develop many key skills such as thinking, researching, evaluating, reflecting and empathising. Wherever possible links are made between Religious Education and other curriculum areas.

## **Impact**

### **Spiritual, Moral, Social and cultural Development**

Religious Education is a key opportunity for children to develop morally, spiritually, socially and culturally. In RE lessons and our collective worship programme children are invited to reflect upon their personal responses to issues, consider other people's responses and appreciate that for some people belief in a spiritual dimension is important.

Spiritual development within RE 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, 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.

## **Assessment and recording**

We assess against the expected outcomes, standards & attainment that underpin all Questful units and learning activities. These outcomes have been separated into the three disciplines (ways of knowing) of theology, philosophy and human social science. Theology involves studying a) how beliefs have changed over time; b) applied theology to different contexts and c) how beliefs relate to each other. Philosophy involves studying a) how and whether things make sense; b) morality & ethics and c) questions of reality, knowledge & existence.

The children's achievement in RE is recorded using our assessment tool (Insight) to allow for us to monitor children's progress and achievement.

## **Monitoring**

The syllabus units give clear suggestions in *blue italics* as to how the outcomes of the activities can be recorded. From Year 1 onwards each child will have their own RE book and each class will have a class RE 'scrapbook'. The two books work together to provide the evidence that can be assessed and monitored. The 'scrapbook' will contain evidence such as pupils' discussions, comments and ideas, records of visits and visitors, photographs, group work, post it notes and printed work from the interactive whiteboard. The teaching, assessing and resourcing of Religious Education is monitored by the RE Subject Leader in close collaboration with the leadership team.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

The RE Subject Leader attends regular training and professional development and organises INSET and training for other members of staff when necessary.

The RE Subject Leader carries out a RE book/work scrutiny across the school regularly, organises the moderation of RE across school and talks with pupils about standards in RE.

### **Resources**

Each year the RE coordinator audits resources, plans in where relevant visits/visitors could happen, which the class teacher then. Funding is allocated for new resources in the next financial year to support this work from the RE budget and parental contributions. The RE co-ordinator, also attends regular RE cluster meetings and diocesan training as required.

The Governors undertake training to enhance the Christian distinctiveness of the school, as identified in the School Development Plan.

‘The Worship and Religious Education provided by this 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, we will explore the reasons for the request and seek to arrive at an agreement.

Through our school values we aspire to great things, achieve much, love, care for each other, and deliver a high quality education in an inclusive and distinctively Christian environment.

We at Read St. John’s C.E. primary School endeavour to provide a caring and enriching environment to provide a caring and enriching environment in which each child is encouraged to reach their full potential inspiring them to develop a love for learning and learning to love.

This policy was written in September 2025 and will be reviewed in September 2026

Subject Leader: Joanne Shaw