St Bartholomew's Church of England Primary School

RE Policy

Action	Date
Document reviewed	September 2026
Reviewed By	Sarah Irvine
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St Bartholomew's C of E (VA) Primary School

Follow Jesus in all we do

School Vision

Our Church School seeks to ensure that by following Jesus, each individual is inspired to shine in all areas of their educational and spiritual development.

'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.' (Jeremiah 29:11)

Mission Statement

Follow Jesus in all we do

'When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life".' (John 8:12)

Core Values

Our school is underpinned by 6 core values;

Courage
'Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.' (Joshua 1.9)

Friendship
'Love each other as I have loved you.' (John 15:12)

Service
'Serve one another in love' (Galatians 5.13)

Forgiveness
'Do not judge, and you will not be judged; Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned; Forgive, and you will be forgiven' (Luke 6:37)

Justice
'And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.' (Micah 6:9)

Love
'Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.' (Chronicles 16:34)

Great Harwood St Bartholomew's Parish CE VA Primary School

Purpose of this document

This policy reflects the school values and philosophy in relation to the teaching and learning of religious education. It sets out a framework within which teaching staff can operate and gives guidance on planning, teaching and assessment.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Diocesan syllabus. This sets out in more detail areas of study for each class to follow. It is sympathetic to the key stage levels of attainment and gives clear guidance on expected levels of attainment for each year group with indicators for attainment at the end of each key stage.

This document is intended for all teaching staff, support staff, school governors, inspection teams and parents. Further copies are available on request.

Our Core Values

At St. Bart's we look at the Christian values that we believe are fundamental to our school and to the lives of our children. We explore and reflect upon the Christian values through our collective worship program and focus on one particular value each half term. These values include:

Courage
Friendship
Service
Forgiveness
Justice
Love

Religious Education at Great Harwood St Bartholomew's

We try to follow the teaching of Jesus, treating others as we would like to be treated ourselves and living according to the ways of the Christian faith. At our school we feel that if pupils are encouraged to take part in a wide range of activities and experiences across and beyond the curriculum, they are more-able to contribute fully to the life of the school and their community. We feel that our children learn to recognise their own worth within a diverse world and we encourage them to work well with others and become increasingly responsible for their own learning.

As a church school we believe that RE plays a vital role in the development of the whole child within the context of a Christian family, contributing towards their spiritual, moral and cultural awareness in terms of knowledge, skills and understanding.

Management of RE

In our Voluntary Aided School, RE is taught in accordance with our trust deed and 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 Religious Education and Collective Worship naturally compliment and enrich each other, they are managed separately. Religious education therefore plays a major part in promoting the Christian aims, values and ethos of the school as expressed in the School's Mission Statement

Content and Time Allocation

The Governors have adopted the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education syllabus for the teaching of RE which fulfils all the legal requirements and the RE Statement of Entitlement from the Church of England Education Office 2026. The implementation and co-ordination of this syllabus is the responsibility of the RE Co-ordinator and is monitored and reviewed in line with the School's Development Plan.

Pupils can expect a Religious Education curriculum that is rich and varied, enabling learners to develop a deep knowledge and understanding of Christianity as a living and diverse global faith. Through engaging with biblical texts, theological concepts and Christian beliefs and practices, pupils develop the skills to think critically and reflectively about religion and belief. We provide a wide range of opportunities for learners to explore and make connections between Christianity, other faiths and non-religious worldviews, fostering understanding, respect and appreciation of diversity. Our enquiry-based approach encourages pupils to ask questions, explore meaning and consider different perspectives, helping them to make sense of the world around them. Links with the school's Christian vision and values, together with spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, are woven throughout the RE curriculum and play a significant role in enabling all learners to flourish. (RE Statement of Entitlement: The Church of England Education Office 2026).

We aim to maintain a balanced approach of learning about religion and learning from religion.

Aims

The aims of Religious Education in Church Schools are:

- To enable pupils to know about and understand Christianity as a living faith that influences the lives of people worldwide and as the religion that has most shaped British culture and heritage.

- To enable pupils to know and understand about other major world religions and world views, their impact on society, culture and the wider world, enabling pupils to express ideas and insights.

- To contribute to the development of pupils' own spiritual/philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own beliefs and values.

RE Statement of Entitlement: The Church of England Education Office 2026

Appropriate to their age and stage of development, by the end of their education in our Church school, we aspire for all pupils to be religiously literate and able to:

• Give a thoughtful and informed account of Christianity as a diverse, global and living faith, drawing on their understanding of Christian beliefs, practices and sources of authority.

• Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of a range of religious and non-religious worldviews, showing respect for the beliefs, values and lived experiences of others.

• Engage confidently, respectfully and meaningfully in discussion and dialogue with people of different faiths, beliefs and worldviews.

• Reflect critically on questions of meaning, purpose and belief, considering their own spiritual, philosophical and ethical views alongside those of others.

• Make informed connections between beliefs, values and ways of living, demonstrating an appreciation of the diverse society and world in which they live.

<u>At Great Harwood St Bartholomew's, we learn about:</u>

- 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.

<u>At Great Harwood St Bartholomew's, we learn from:</u>

- 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.

As a Church school, we aim to encourage a positive self-image within our children as they explore the wonder of God's world and grow in their knowledge and understanding of Christianity. We hope to develop in them a broader understanding of how religious faith can sustain them in difficult circumstances and that they can become active citizens in a diverse world.

Religious Education at Great Harwood St Bartholomew's should also help pupils to:

- Reflect critically on the truth claims of Christian belief.
- See how Christianity is relevant today.
- Develop skill to interpret the Bible.
- Become active citizens, serving their neighbour.
- Understand how religious faith can sustain them in difficult circumstances.

- Engage in thoughtful dialogue with other faiths and traditions.

As a Church school, we also aim to develop respect for other faiths. We help 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 pluralist and postmodern 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

As a Church of England school, we also aim to enable:

- pupils and staff 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 to talk openly about their beliefs and values in lessons and to grow in their faith
- pupils from other faith backgrounds to understand and be encouraged 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

Spiritual, Moral and Social 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, 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.

British Values

All schools are required to promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of children. In addition to this, in line with the requirements set out by the Government's 2011 Prevent Strategy, schools are specifically required to actively promote fundamental British Values.

These values fall into the following broad areas:

- Democracy
- The Rule of Law
- Individual Liberty
- Mutual Respect
- Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

As a Church of England Primary School, the Christian ethos is at the heart of our school family and underpins all that we do. Our moral values and teaching are Gospel based and uphold the message of God's redeeming love. Whilst these are the principles of faith upon which our school and church stand, we actively promote respect and tolerance for our 'neighbours' of all faiths, races and cultures.

Our curriculum promotes not only the academic development of all our children, but also their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. This means we encourage our children to be unique, creative, independent individuals, respectful of themselves, their fellow children in school, those in our local community and beyond. We actively promote their development towards becoming caring, democratic, responsible and tolerant adults who will make positive contributions to our society and the wider world.

SEND

We value all the children in our school equally and we recognise the entitlement of each child to receive the best possible education.

Within a caring and mutually supportive environment, we aim to:

- Build upon the strengths and achievements of the child
- Create an environment in which all individuals are valued, have respect for one another and grow in self-esteem
- Give equal access to all aspects of school life through academic, social and practical experiences

- Ensure that effective channels of communication are sustained so that all persons including parents and carers are aware of the pupil's progress and that provision is made for this
- Assess children regularly so that those with SEND are identified as early as possible
- Enable pupils with special educational needs to make the greatest progress possible
- Work towards developing expertise in using inclusive teaching and learning strategies

This will allow all children to experience success regardless of SEND, disability or any other factor that may affect their attainment. This is insofar as it is reasonably practical and compatible with the child receiving their special educational provision and the effective education of their fellow pupils.

Legal Requirements

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 Head teacher will explore the reasons for the request and seek to arrive at an accommodation. It may be that only some elements of Religious Education or Worship are objected to.

Parents may request the governing body to provide Religious Education for their children according to the Agreed Syllabus. This can only be requested when parents cannot, with reasonable convenience, arrange for their children to attend another school where Religious Education is provided according to the Agreed Syllabus. The governing body should make provision unless the circumstances make it unreasonable to do so.

Should the governing body be unable to make such arrangements for Religious Education to be delivered according to the Agreed Syllabus, the responsibility for doing so then falls on the Local Authority. The Local Authority may decide that such a request for separate Religious Education is unreasonable and the parental request then fails.

Organisation

Early Years Foundation Stage, Key stage 1 and 2

At Great Harwood St Bartholomew's we follow the Diocesan syllabus, but organise the units into programs within the relevant key stages to enhance our topic-based learning.

Faiths other than Christianity have a distinct place alongside the curriculum guidance which is indicated in the long-term curriculum plan.

Opportunities to invite visitors into school to bring a personal approach to the curriculum are recognised as a valuable learning experience which can be used to add another dimension to the curriculum provision.

The Diocesan Syllabus provides thorough guidance on planning creative and motivating lessons incorporating a variety of teaching approaches and methods. Written, drawn, oral styles through writing, singing, artwork, drama, reflection, participating in and preparing class assemblies or special assemblies to name a few. Each class has its own RE floor book and individual books where children's explorations, thoughts, feelings and work can be recorded.

Inclusion

R.E. will be made available to all regardless of race, gender or disability. All pupils regardless of faith or beliefs, will be treated with respect and will be encouraged to feel included and valued within the specific R.E. curriculum. Each child's contribution will be valued and this ethos will be promoted for all pupils to adopt as they learn to accept and learn from each other. Within the Diocesan Syllabus there is provision for a wide range of abilities and clear guidance for progression. This ensures that all children can be catered for within the curriculum and can access this through the creative teaching style approach.

We are an inclusive school that holds a child's emotional and spiritual development as a priority. Therefore, any child who has additional needs will be provided with any support required to help them access and learn from the RE curriculum.

EYFS

Children in the foundation stage follow the program, but have in mind the learning intentions of the planning as advised for Early Years in the Diocesan Syllabus. Essentially other aspects of RE are covered as a class unit so that the pupils can bond together as a class through their learning experience.

The content specifically targets the Christian faith which is in line with the ethos of Great Harwood St Bartholomew's School. This syllabus also covers aspects of the Early Years Curriculum through *'Knowledge and Understanding of the World' and 'Personal, Social and Emotional Development'*.

Further to this the curriculum at the foundation stage requires the children to learn about other cultures and beliefs where opportunities to look at other faiths and traditions arise.

It is recognised that EYFS should teach R.E. as a specific subject area which might be distinct on the timetable. Where appropriate it may overlap and link in with other subject areas such as Personal, Social and Emotional Education and Knowledge and Understanding of the World. A creative and varied teaching approach will include the

aspects of class organisation mentioned above.

Assessment

This will be carried out by the class teacher in accordance with their planning and their learning objectives. Expectations should be high and based on the child's previous skills and development. Teacher assessments are carried out at the end of each unit and submitted to the RE coordinator. The assessment will show which children are achieving in line with expectations, those who are exceeding it and those who are working below the expected levels. A report on standards is written by the coordinator annually and sent to the governing body.

Assessment in RE is ongoing and informed by pupils' responses to enquiry questions, discussions, written work and reflection. Through Questful RE, teachers assess pupils' knowledge, understanding and ability to engage with religious and non-religious worldviews, drawing on evidence gathered throughout each unit.

Teachers consider how well pupils can:

- Recall and explain key beliefs, teachings and practices
- Make connections within and between religions and worldview
- Use appropriate religious and theological vocabulary
- Ask and respond to challenging questions about meaning, purpose and belief
- Express informed views and support them with reasons and evidence
- Show respect and understanding when discussing different beliefs and perspectives

Assessment is based on the end-of-unit outcomes and enquiry questions within Questful RE. Evidence may include class discussions, written work, creative responses, presentations and reflective activities. This enables teachers to build an accurate picture of each pupil's progress in becoming religiously literate.

Specific areas may be highlighted by the co-ordinator for compiling a compendium of work to show progression through the school. Photographs may be taken of work or special events as appropriate for a portfolio to show the breadth of study covered by the school as a whole.

Resources

All resources are kept in a central location in school. There are also additional topic boxes of resources for Judaism, Christianity, Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism and Islam. Each financial year resources are updated from the R.E. budget. Resources aim to be bright, lively and current in line with recommended resources from the Diocese. Over the years resources have been prioritised to meet the most immediate needs to keep materials fresh and modern.

Role of the Co-Ordinator

The co-ordinator is responsible for:

- Maintaining a broad stock of resources and up to date materials through monitoring and ordering
- Monitoring teachers planning to check on daily provision
- Analysing assessment data and pupil work to keep a check on standards across the school
- Evaluating strengths and weaknesses in R.E. provision and feeding targets for developments into the School Improvement Plan
- Reporting to the board of Governors and keeping them updated with regard to curriculum, assessment and developments with regard to the teaching of Religious Education at St Bartholomew's
- Attending network meetings to monitor the accuracy of the school's assessment and keep informed of local and national developments

Cross-Curricular Links

It is recognised that children learn best when their learning is connected and the school has adopted a themed approach to its long-term planning of curriculum subjects. Although it is recognised that R.E. is a distinctive subject in itself there should be links made to other areas of the curriculum where appropriate. Specific links are made with P.S.H.C.E. and the SEAL project to enhance the cross-curriculum provision where it is particularly appropriate for embedding the values of the school.

Collective Worship

Collective worship at our school plays a significant part in developing the children's spirituality and enriching their experience of RE. However, the RE syllabus and its classroom delivery are legally distinct from Denominational Collective Worship and they are managed separately.

Daily worship at St. Bartholomew's reinforces the R.E. curriculum with a mainly Christian emphasis. Worship throughout the week includes whole school collective worship, class worship, celebration assemblies, and prayer and praise. This also provides opportunities for the staff to reflect on their own spiritual development.

Class worship is led by the class teacher and takes place in each classroom on a weekly timetable. The theme will follow up the topic which has been presented in collective worship and embeds the values for life at St. Bartholomew's. Each classroom has its own class reflection area and is resourced with Bibles, crosses and other RE resources. This is a place for children to access during the day as an interactive extension of the worship theme. Each class also has a copy of the Lion Storyteller Bible and use it as part of their daily reflection.

Each class has its own R.E floor book which is used as another way to record thoughts, reflections and comments of the children. Visitors are also welcomed to take part in class worship and support the staff through visiting each class through the year.

Extra Curriculum and Community Links

Wherever possible the school works alongside the church in providing opportunities for children at the school to develop links with local churches. The school has also developed links with

The school's carol service is held at Christmas for parents and families to enjoy. Pupils and staff walk up to church for the leavers service at the end of the school year. St. Bartholomew's church also has a Sunday school and confirmation classes which some of our children attend. Children are also encouraged to support the Parish Christmas Fair once a year and bring prizes for the tombola stall.

Charity fund raising appeals are supported at harvest through the Bishop's Harvest Appeal and at Christmas the pupils send boxes to St John's the Baptist Church box appeal for the food bank. Sometimes individual pupils choose to support their own charities out of school, this receives recognition as part of our pupil's achievements in the weekly celebration assembly.

Spirituality

The Religious Education curriculum makes a significant contribution to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all pupils at St Bartholomew's C.E. Primary School. We encourage children to be curious, ask questions and explore their understanding of faith, belief and the world around them. RE provides rich opportunities for children to engage with life's biggest questions and to reflect on meaning, purpose, belief and belonging.

At St Bartholomew's, spirituality in RE is nurtured through moments of awe and wonder, thoughtful discussion and opportunities to encounter different beliefs and ways of living. Through an enquiry-based approach, children are encouraged to wonder, question, reflect and think deeply, recognising that people may hold different beliefs whilst demonstrating mutual respect and understanding. Exploring sacred texts, religious artefacts, inspiring stories, celebrations, places of worship and the experiences of believers helps children develop a deeper understanding of themselves, others and the world around them.

Through our Christian values of **courage, friendship, service, forgiveness, justice and love**, children learn to appreciate diversity, build understanding and reflect on how beliefs influence actions. We believe that spirituality is for everyone. All children, regardless of faith background or belief, are provided with opportunities to explore their own beliefs and values, develop a sense of identity, belonging and purpose, and flourish as thoughtful, respectful and compassionate members of our diverse society.

Enrichment in Religious Education

At St Bartholomew's C.E. Primary School, we believe that high-quality Religious Education extends beyond the classroom. Through a range of enrichment opportunities, pupils are able to deepen their understanding of Christianity, other faiths and worldviews through first-hand experiences and meaningful encounters.

Our RE enrichment opportunities include:

- Visits to churches, cathedrals and places of worship from different faith traditions.
- Visits from faith leaders and members of local faith communities.
- Opportunities to explore religious artefacts and sacred texts.
- Participation in Christian festivals and celebrations throughout the year.
- Prayer and reflection experiences linked to Collective Worship and school values.
- Religious Education themed days and spirituality events.
- Links with St Bartholomew's Church and the wider parish community.
- Opportunities for pupil leadership through School Council, STEM leaders, Eco Team Ethos Team and leadership roles.
- Charity fundraising and community service activities inspired by Christian values.
- Participation in diocesan events and initiatives.
- Opportunities to engage with local, national and global issues through the exploration of justice, compassion and service.
- Use of visitors, workshops, drama, music, art and storytelling to bring religious learning to life.

These experiences enrich pupils' learning, develop religious literacy and encourage curiosity, reflection and respect for diverse beliefs and cultures. They help children to make connections between faith, belief and everyday life, supporting them to become informed, thoughtful and compassionate members of society.

Date of this Review: September 2026
Date of Next Review: September 2027