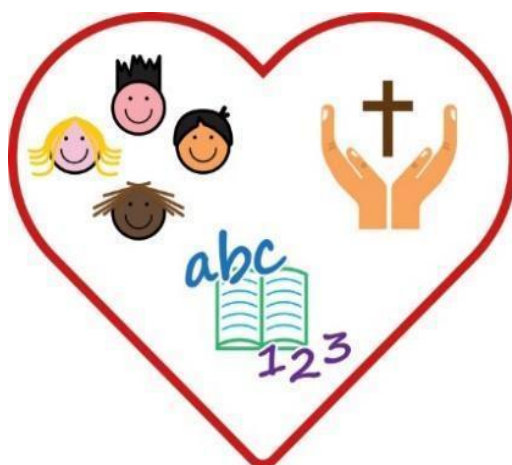


ST. MATTHEW'S C.E. PRIMARY ACADEMY



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

Reviewed: April 2026
By: Governing Body & J. Clough

Date of next review: April 2028

Mission Statement

St. Matthew's C.E. Primary School and Nursery is dedicated to providing an education which enables every child to fulfil their best potential. It seeks to promote academic, emotional and spiritual growth in a Christian environment, welcoming children drawn from diverse cultures.

Vision Statement

Inspired by Jesus' words (Matthew 5: 1-12), we strive to promote academic, emotional and spiritual growth in a Christian environment for all members of our school family; in the knowledge that we can all 'Be blessed by God, be happy and aspire to be...'

In this Church of England school, the Religious Education provided is in conformity with the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England as laid down in the Trust Deed. RE is considered a core academic subject, playing a major part in promoting the Christian aims, values and ethos of our school as expressed in the mission statement and the 2026 national requirements for church school distinctiveness.

The school has adopted the RE syllabus produced by the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education. The syllabus followed is named 'Questful RE' and is accessible online. Following Diocesan guidelines and the 2026 Statement of Entitlement, the proportion of the curriculum time to be allocated to RE is a minimum of 5%. Within that, the balance of time allocated to Christianity is 80% and to other religions and worldviews 20%. Where appropriate, these worldviews are drawn on when studying the syllabus units to develop and deepen religious literacy. This helps to keep the balance of time spent on diverse worldviews while following all the units of the Diocesan syllabus. Appreciating the different faiths of children attending the school and that of the community, the other religions studied will be Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism, Judaism and Buddhism, alongside non-religious worldviews.

Elements of the RE syllabus may be reinforced through Collective Worship within the school, reference being made to the Collective Worship Policy. Particular attention is made to celebrate festivals from all the religions and worldviews studied within Collective Worship. Links with Preston Minster Church, the lead church in our recently formed Parish,, are to be fostered where appropriate, as there are opportunities to develop relationships with holy places of other faiths in the community.

Responsibility for the policy

In our academy trust, the management of RE is a distinctive role of the Governors and Headteacher. The policy has been written following the January 2026 Statement of Entitlement guidelines and approved by the Governing body in July 2026. It is to be reviewed every 2 years by the subject leader before being presented to staff and Governors. The RE subject leader is responsible for the implementation and co-ordination of the policy, including ensuring that staff receive the specialist professional development required to maintain the high status of the subject. Last reviewed April 2026. Next to be reviewed Spring 2028.

Statement of aims

At St. Matthew's we believe in teaching RE so children are able to discover more about themselves, others and God while developing the religious literacy necessary to function in a pluralistic society. We encourage children's values and spiritual development to be explored and experienced throughout the whole school. We do this by following the aims set out by the Church of England Statement of Entitlement 2026.

In this school, RE should nurture pupils' own personal faith and commitment within a clear ethos of respect for those children of differing faiths and worldviews. It contributes to pupils' personal development including spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, with reference to the school PSHE policy and curriculum. RE explores a rich, deep knowledge and understanding of Christian belief and practice as a living, global faith. It gives pupils the opportunity to explore the nature of religious language and symbolism and introduces them to other world religions and worldviews. Pupils experience Christian faith and places of worship while exploring Christianity in its diverse international contexts. Finally, RE engages and challenges the children through an exploration of core religious concepts and big questions using the disciplinary lenses of theology, philosophy, and social sciences.

Content and approach

The Christian and worldviews element of the RE curriculum is based on the objectives within the Blackburn Diocesan syllabus 'Questful RE' and the teaching activities and resources recommended. The yearly themes to be taught follow the Diocesan agreed syllabus and the units covered within each term follow the curriculum overview given by the subject leader. All teachers must follow the hours stated for each unit to enable the unit to be covered properly. Each unit specifies whether content is solely Christian or whether other worldviews are taught within the unit. A suggested amount of hours

per week is 1 hour 20 minutes for each class. This may be an hour lesson and 20 minutes of class worship. These lessons must be taught by a teacher to ensure the academic rigour expected. Staff must follow the non-negotiable list for presentation of books, floor books and displays.

Progression and Monitoring

RE is monitored by the subject leader on a termly cycle. To monitor standards and progression throughout the school, records are kept according to the Diocesan guidance and the 2026 expectations for substantive and disciplinary knowledge. These records begin at foundation level and follow the child through school. All staff receive a timetable of monitoring at the beginning of each term. The subject leader keeps a digital folder of age-related examples linked to the expectations from the Diocesan syllabus.

Special Education Needs provision

Teachers plan activities according to the needs and abilities within the class, providing differentiation for the more-able and the less-able appropriately. The needs of children on the SEN register are accounted for and appropriate to their TLPs, with reference to the SEN policy. Activities have been amended within the syllabus to ensure RE remains a day-one entitlement for all, making the teaching and learning of complex religious concepts accessible to every pupil regardless of their starting point.

Assessment

Teachers assess RE with reference to the assessment and the marking policies. Parents are informed on their child's progress at regular parent evenings and a written report is given at the end of the year as part of the child's annual written report. The children's work is assessed against the ladder of expectations as a whole class and teachers complete the whole class assessment at the end of the unit. This is collected by the subject leader so that reflections can be made and actions taken. Learning maps are completed once a term to check that the children can answer the key questions set out in the syllabus. Children in reception do not complete these as they are not age appropriate, while Year 1 begins these in the Spring term.

Resources

Appropriate resources are ordered and collated by the subject leader. 'Questful RE' is an online platform of resources and can be accessed by using given usernames and passwords. Additional resources are selected to ensure a balanced representation of global Christianity and diverse worldviews.

Appendix 1:

Non-negotiables of RE

RE Books

- Cover sheet for all new units.
- Must see clear progression between exploration of text, making connections, impact and deeper understanding.
- Photocopy a sample of work from HA, MA and LA children to be handed in with the assessment sheet every term. You may choose the unit of work in which you assess.

Floor Books

- Work, comments, pictures and reflections linked to the RE scheme of work.
- Work to be dated and if comments are made by a child then their name should be written.
- Reflections and prayers linked to Collective Worship, class worship and the school values shall be added.
- Cover sheet for a new unit.

RE Displays/ Prayer Space

- RE display and prayer space should be separate.
- The prayer table should include - table cloth, floor book, school prayer, class prayer, cross, candle, Bible, a prayer box with post it notes.
- RE displays should be treated as a working wall with a unit title, key questions that the children want to find out, work created each week to be added.