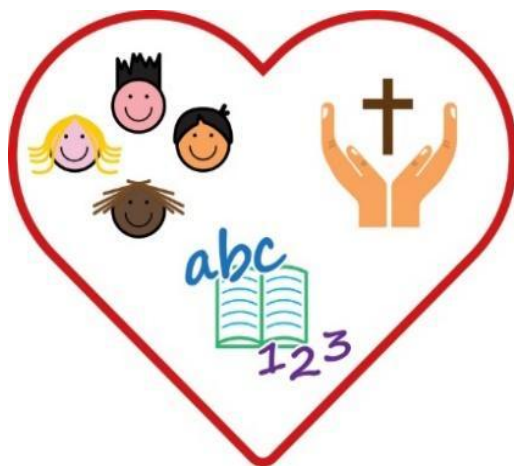


ST. MATTHEW'S C.E. PRIMARY ACADEMY & NURSERY



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

Reviewed: January 2023
By: Governing Body & C. Smith

Date of next review: January 2025

Be blessed by God, be happy and aspire to be....

St Matthew's Church of England Primary School and Nursery
Religious Education Policy

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.
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 plays a major part in promoting the Christian aims, values and ethos of our school as expressed in the mission statement.

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

Our whole school curriculum including RE also promotes our vision statement as set out below.

Be blessed by God, Be happy and Aspire to be...

Inspired by Jesus' words (Matthew 5: 1-12), we strive to promote academic, emotional and spiritual growth in a Christian

Be blessed by God, be happy and aspire to be....

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...

The school has adopted the RE syllabus produced by the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education and the North Lancashire District of the Methodist Church alongside the scheme 'Understanding Christianity'. The syllabus followed is named 'Questful RE' 2022 and is now accessible online. Following Diocesan guidelines, the proportion of the curriculum time to be allocated to RE should be approximately 5%. Within that, the balance of time allocated to Christianity should be 80% and to other faiths 20%. If appropriate, the non-Christian faiths should be drawn on when studying the syllabus units to develop and deepen understanding. This will also help to keep the balance of time spent on non-Christian faiths 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 faiths studied will be predominantly Islam, with Hinduism, Sikhism, Judaism and Buddhism as subsidiary areas following the Lancashire Agreed Syllabus.

Elements of the RE syllabus may be re-inforced through Collective Worship within the school, (reference being made to the Collective Worship Policy). Particular attention should be made to celebrate festivals from all the religions studied within Collective Worship. Links with St. Matthew's Church 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 in consultation with the staff of the school following Diocesan guidelines and approved by the Governing body in January 2023. It is to be reviewed every 2 years by the coordinator before being presented to staff and Governors. The RE coordinator is responsible for implementation/co-ordination of the policy. Last reviewed January 2023. Next to be reviewed Spring 2025 and in line with the new Blackburn Diocesan Syllabus released in Autumn 2022.

Statement of aims

At St. Matthew's we believe in teaching R.E. so children are able to discover more about themselves, others and God. 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 2019.

Religious education in a Church school should enable every child to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10). It will help educate for dignity and respect encouraging all to live well together.

"Such an approach is offered through a commitment to generous hospitality, being true to our underpinning faith, but with a deep respect for the integrity of other religious traditions (and worldviews) and for the religious freedom of each person".

In this school, RE should:

- Nurture pupils own personal faith/commitment within a clear ethos of respect for those children of the differing faiths.
- Contribute to pupils' personal development including spiritual, moral social and cultural development, with reference to the school PSHE policy and curriculum.
- Explore a rich, deep knowledge and understanding of Christian belief and practice.
- Give pupils the opportunity to explore the nature of religious language and symbolism.
- Value pupils' own faith and introduce them to other world faiths and world views.
- Experience Christian faith and places of worship.
- Explore Christianity as a world faith.
- Engage and challenge the children through an exploration of core religious concepts and questions.

Content and approach

The Christian and NCF element of the RE curriculum will be based on the objectives within the Blackburn Diocesan syllabus, 'Questful RE', along with Understanding Christianity and the teaching activities and resources recommended.

The yearly themes to be taught will follow the Diocesan agreed syllabus and the units covered within each term will follow the curriculum overview given by subject leader. All teachers should clearly follow the hours stated for each unit to enable the unit to be covered properly. Each unit will specify whether content is solely Christian or whether NCF will be taught within the unit. A suggested amount of hours per week would be 1 hour 20 minutes for each class. This may be an hour lesson and 20 minutes of class worship.

Staff must follow the non-negotiable list for presentation of books, floor books and displays (see appendix 1).

Progression and Monitoring

RE will be monitored by the coordinator on a termly cycle and with reference to the school improvement plan. To monitor standards and progression throughout the school, records will be kept according to the Diocesan guidance and list of expectations for children to have reached by the end of KS1 and KS2. These records should begin at foundation level and follow the child through school. All staff will be given a timetable of monitoring at the beginning of each term. The subject leader will keep an updated folder of age-related examples linked to the expectations from the Diocesan syllabus.

Special Education Needs provision

Teachers will plan activities according to the needs and abilities within the class, differentiation for the more-able and the less able appropriately. The needs of children on the SEN register will be accounted for and appropriate to their TLPs, with reference to the SEN policy. Activities have been amended within the new version syllabus to make the teaching and learning of RE accessible to all.

Assessment

Teachers will assess RE with reference to the assessment and the marking policies. Parents will be informed on their child's progress at regular parent evenings and a written report given at the end of the year as part of the child's annual written report. "Levelled"

pieces of work will be collated termly by the coordinator alongside the assessment framework 2018 in which the children's progress will be stated. The children's work will be assessed against the ladder of expectations (Blackburn Diocese) as a whole class and whether the child is below, on track or exceeding expectations personally. These will be collated into whole school trackers in order to see progress made over time. Learning maps will also be completed once a term to check that the children can answer the key questions set out in the syllabus (whole class).

Resources

Appropriate resources will be ordered and collated by the coordinator. Also, resources may be drawn from the resources bank at Church House for a limited period of time. EMA resources are also available for loan to teach non-Christian faiths.

Resource boxes linked to Christianity, Hinduism, Sikhism, Islam and Buddhism are clearly labelled and will be accessible from the storage floor if you wish to use them.

'Questful RE' have now moved to an online platform of resources and can be accessed by using given usernames and passwords.

Appendix 1:

Non-negotiable of RE
RE Books

- Cover sheet for all new units.
- Clear L.O's linked to the unit plans-skill based.
- 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. Learning maps will also be collected in linked to the assessed unit.

Floor Books

- Work, comments, pictures and reflections linked to the RE scheme of work.
- Work to be dated and if comments 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.
- 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 chn want to find out, work created each week to be added.