

St Silas Primary School



Religious Education Policy

This Policy was reviewed in	September 2020
Signed Chair of Governors	Julia Anderson
Signed Head Teacher	M Battersby
Next Review Date	September 2023

ST SILAS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

POLICY FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

‘Loving God and each other, we work together to be the best we can be’

R.E Mission Statement

At St Silas we will help all children develop the ‘whole child’ through their character and spirit. They will gain an understanding of the place that religion plays in people’s lives and how it has influenced history and the growth and development of society. We use the Blackburn Diocese Syllabus as our scheme of work, with a focus on the Christian Values. We establish meaningful links with the other subjects of the curriculum. Our aim is to ignite a curiosity to learn about religion that will help children understand about faiths, beliefs and how religion has influenced both the development of mankind and the society in which we live. Teaching R.E provokes challenging questions about meaning and purpose, truth and values, identity and belonging.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Religious Education and Collective Worship naturally complement and enrich one another and are managed separately. See collective worship policy.

OBJECTIVES

Through the one hour weekly teaching of R.E our objectives are...

1. To help all children develop an understanding of religion, faith and belief.
2. To enable children to learn about key religious leaders and their impact on our lives.
3. To develop children’s knowledge and understanding of the growth, development and influence of Christianity and other world faiths on history, society and our lives today.
4. To develop children’s knowledge, skills and understanding of religious education.

STRATEGIES

1. We will begin the teaching of religious education in Foundation Stage as the children begin developing their knowledge, skills and understanding of the world by finding out about festivals and worship.
2. As the children move into Key Stage 1 they will build on their earlier work using the Agreed Syllabus as the guidelines for teaching and learning.

3. Strong links will be made with the teaching of English. Stories, plays and poems from the Bible and other religious and moral sources will be shared with the children.
4. Religious education will become a stimulus and a springboard for the development of oracy, writing and for the development of thinking and reasoning skills.
5. Art, design technology, drama will be closely linked with religious education as children use these subjects to communicate what they have learnt.
6. On every appropriate occasion teachers will use first-hand experience, visits, visitors, artefacts, AVA and the local and wider environment to engage children's interest and imagination.
7. Through their understanding of the different faiths and beliefs children will be encouraged to develop their feelings, 'empathy and understanding for others.
8. Through their understanding of religious education, learners will be helped to develop an understanding of the British society in which they live.
9. Children will learn about the influence of religion, faith and belief on democracy, our government, the Monarchy, citizenship, and the Law. They will learn about rights and responsibilities, and about moral, spiritual, social and environmental issues.
10. We will use financial resources to build up an extensive collection of resources, artefacts and books to support the teaching of religious education.

The aims of Religious Education 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.

Appropriate to age at the end of their education in Church schools the expectation is that all pupils are religiously literate and, as a minimum, 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.

This can be expressed in more detail and distinctively as:

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 should also 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.

Religious Education should help pupils to:

- 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 post-modern 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 should enable:

- 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 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.

ASSESSMENT

The children are assessed after each unit, through teacher assessment; this grades them as working towards, working at and working above in their year group. They will also complete a self-assessment at the end of each topic, discussing whether they think they have achieved all of the key points.

The school follows the Blackburn Diocese RE syllabus which ensures that the **children learn about all the religions of the world**. Collective Worship contributes to the knowledge of special occasions and children and their **families come to share with the school information** about how they celebrate these events at home. The local clergy person visits the school for special Collective Worship and talks to the children. These talks coincide with main events occurring in the Christian calendar such as advent. The children attend Church on a half termly basis to perform their class assembly. Where appropriate, we provide our children with Educational visits to different places of worship and participate in Community Cohesion projects with schools within different areas of the community.

The RE curriculum encourages pupils to explore **spiritual** approaches through their own and others' beliefs and values, and to develop an awe and wonder for the

natural world. Creative teaching methods provide pupils with the chance to explore **spirituality** and reflect on their feelings and motivations, and respond visually to these.

‘The Worship and Religious Education provided by the school is in accordance with the Church of England or Methodist Church 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 or Methodist Church 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.’

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 IEPs, with reference to the SEN policy.

OUTCOMES

Religious Education will be fun. It will be used to promote excellence and enjoyment. It will have a strong presence in the ethos of the school through displays, performances, music, drama and assemblies. RE will make a significant contribution to pupils’ Spiritual, Moral Social and Cultural development. Where parents request that their children be withdrawn from the teaching of religious education other appropriate educational provision will be made for them.