



Warton St Paul's

Church of England Primary Academy

A member of **CDARI**

RE Policy

Reviewed May 2020

Next review May 2023

Our Mission Statement

‘Believe, Belong, Be the Best that
you can Be’

*"Whatever you do in word or deed,
do everything in the name of the
Lord." Colossians 3:17*

Mission Statement for Religious Education

At Warton St. Paul's C. of E. Primary Academy, we aim for our Religious Education to be of the highest standard, always striving for excellence, reflecting our church school's distinctive Christian character. Religious education is the vehicle for living the vision of our church school and, through it, we aim to:

- Ensure that the children are asking, investigating and understanding
- Provoke religious thinking and give our pupils the opportunity to reflect
- Enable our pupils to have informed conversations about religious beliefs and practices in order to connect, critically reflect upon, evaluate and apply their learning to their own growing understanding and respect of religion and belief, of themselves, the world and human experience
- Widen understanding of Christianity as a living world faith
- Develop understanding of Gospel values and how to live by these through words and actions at Warton St. Paul's C. of E. Primary Academy.

The management of Religious Education is a distinctive role of the LGC and headteacher. RE must be provided in accordance with the school's Trust Deed and in accordance with the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England. The LGC as a whole is responsible for determining the nature of Religious Education provided in its school. At Warton St. Paul's C. of E. Primary Academy, we adopt the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education Syllabus for RE which fulfils all legal requirements and the RE Statement of Entitlement from the Church of England Education Office 2016. The core Syllabus is 'Questful RE Creative and Challenging' revised in 2017 and supported by the 'Understanding Christianity' resource. Although Religious Education and Collective Worship naturally compliment and enrich one another, they are managed separately. The RE policy should be read alongside the Worship policy.

At Warton St. Paul's C.E. Academy, RE lies at the very heart of our curriculum.

Our pupils and their families can expect a religious education curriculum that is rich and varied, enabling learners to acquire a thorough knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith. We provide a wide range of opportunities for learners to understand and to make links between the beliefs, practices and value systems of the range of faiths and world views studied. We use an questioning, investigative, enquiry approach that engages with, for example biblical text, and helps to develop religious and theological literacy. There are strong links with the Christian Gospel values of our school and spiritual, moral, social and cultural development are intrinsic to our RE curriculum. These should have a significant impact on learners.

(Based on RE Statement of Entitlement: The Church of England Education Office 2016)

Time allocation

Warton St. Paul's C. of E., an average of one and a half hours per week of curriculum time is devoted to the teaching of RE. This includes distinct syllabus lessons, plus teaching related to the Christian Gospel values. We adopt a creative approach to RE learning, so there are cross curricular links with PSHE, Art, Drama and Music. In line with the requirements of the Statement of Entitlement of Church of England Education Office, 80% of this curricular time is devoted to exploring the Christian faith and 20% to Non-Christian Faiths.

Aims of Religious Education

The aims of Religious Education at Warton St. Paul's C. of E. School are:

- To enable our 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 our 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 our pupils' own spiritual/philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own beliefs and values.

(RE Statement of Entitlement: The Church of England Education Office 2016)

Our expectation at St. Paul's C. of E. School is that all pupils are religiously literate by the time they leave in Year 6.

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.

Our aim for Religious Education at St. Paul's C.E. School is to 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 of the 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 at Warton St. Paul's C.E. School 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 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 have a safe place to explore the ultimate questions and challenges of life in today's society.

RE, alongside the Gospel Values at Warton St. Paul's C. of E. Primary School makes a significant contribution to pupils' Spiritual, Moral Social and Cultural development. Staff ensure that the values taught in RE permeate throughout all other areas of the curriculum and are revisited in relation to learning, expectations of behaviour and relationships between all members of the school family.

Equal opportunities

The RE scheme of work ensures both equality of opportunity and access to the curriculum for all of our children.

Inclusion and SEN Provision

Staff are fully aware of the needs of all of the children in each class. Work is differentiated to match the varying ability levels of our children. In all approaches to teaching and learning, as well as in curriculum content, the RE Coordinator and staff will ensure that:

- the contributions of all children are valued
- children are confident and can participate in the subject
- stereotypical views are challenged
- children learn to appreciate and view positively differences
- children can participate safely regardless of disability

We will aim to ensure that the teaching of RE is accessible to all pupils and provide additional support through:

- Differentiated questioning and resources
- Appropriate and exciting resources
- Teaching assistant support
- Small group support
- Inclusive teaching approaches, e.g. visual, auditory, kinaesthetic approaches

The contribution of RE to Christian and British values

At Warton St. Paul's C. of E. Primary School, the teaching of RE positively drives the promotion of the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

Assessment and record keeping

At Warton St. Paul's, assessment and recording is in accordance with guidance given in the BDBE RE Syllabus. Children are provided with a variety of opportunities to record their work. Assessment and recording includes:

- Pupil discussion and questioning conversations
- Pupil discussion about their recorded work
- Verbal/ written feedback relevant to the RE learning objective
- Comments, photographs and group work recorded in the Class Reflection Book
- Class Multi-Faith Reflection Book
- Verbal and written reports to parents
- Pupil interviews, lesson observations and work scrutiny by the head teacher and RE coordinator
- Internal moderation of work
- Teacher assessment at the end of every unit, using the ladder of expectation of achievement in RE for each child
- RE portfolio
- Class and whole school displays

Resources

The core syllabus of 'Questful RE Creative and Challenging' (revised 2017) is supported with a wide range of resources. These include:

- Understanding Christianity documents and access to the website
- Mystery Boxes for EYFS / KS1
- Walk Through the Bible Course (Y5/6) with Helen Lewis
- A wide variety of Bibles and other books, linked to each unit of work
- Saddleback Kids Bible youtube videos
- Artefacts for Christian and Non-Christian Faiths
- Scripture Union dvds
- A wide range of books, dvds and other resources for each unit of work across the school (a list of resources available for each unit is on display on the inside cupboard doors)
- Diocesan RE Syllabus
- Easter Pack (Diocese)
- Christmas Pack (Diocese)
- God, Prayer & Spirituality (Diocese)
- Islam (Diocese)
- Judaism (Diocese)
- Death, Grief and Eternal Life (Diocese)
- Church Life, Saints & Seasons (Diocese)

Physical teaching resources are, in the main, kept centrally in the main corridor. A range of reference books for staff is located in the staffroom, including:

- Lancashire Agreed Syllabus
- Lancashire Non Statutory Scheme of Work
- Resource Bank Books 1 -3
- Writing and Poetry Toolkit (Bible Society)
- Art & Music Toolkit (Bible Society)
- Festivals and Spiritual Days in Britain

In addition:

- KS1 Bibles are stored in the KS1 corridor
- KS2 Upper and Lower Junior Bibles are stored in the KS2 corridor

- The RE section in the school library contains a wide range of books on Christianity and World Faiths
- RE artefacts are stored in the RE cupboard in the corridor
- St Paul's Church and congregation, together with the vicar, are "living resources" that support and enrich our RE teaching.

Parental Rights of Withdrawal

Parents may withdraw their children from Religious Education. However, 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 Headteacher will explore the reasons for the request with parents and seek to arrive at an accommodation. It may be that only some elements of Religious Education or Worship are objected to.

Mrs. Dean (Headteacher)

Reviewed: May 2020

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