

# Parish CE Primary School



## Religious Education Policy



*Parish Church of England Primary School*

### **British Values Curriculum Policy Statement**

**Parish Church of England Primary** is a school built on Christian beliefs and values. However, we recognise that our children are part of the wider British society, which is multi-cultural and multi-faith in its composition. We also understand that we have a crucial role to play in ensuring that our children become valuable and fully rounded members of society, who treat others with respect and tolerance and are fully prepared for life in modern Britain.

Where it is appropriate and pertinent we aim to teach, reinforce and develop our inherent British values both within our school practices (please refer to our British Values Statement) and within our curriculum coverage.

This statement outlines the key British values we actively promote within the curriculum.

- **Democracy**
  
- **Mutual Respect**
  
- **Individual Liberty**
  
- **Tolerance for those of different faiths and beliefs**
  
- **The Rule of Law**

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**Inclusion, Equality and Community Cohesion Policy Statement**

**At Parish Church of England Primary School we aim to provide high quality education which is inclusive and equips pupils for life- long learning. We strive to enable all pupils to achieve their optimum potential.**

We aim to promote inclusivity, equality and community cohesion as an integral aspect of our school development, permeating all our policies, in order to increase the learning and participation of all our pupils.

We recognise and value the varied life experiences and needs of all members of our school community. Our school is one in which the teaching, learning, achievements, attitudes and well -being of each child matters.

We are committed to ensuring that school practice reflects our inclusive aims by utilising resources both within the school and the Local Community, by responding to diversity and equality.

We aim to develop an acceptance of the British values of democracy, the rule of law, mutual respect, fair-mindedness and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

**The school strives to establish equal rights and inclusive values by having high expectations for all pupils, by valuing all children and through the sharing of the same philosophy by all staff, governors and parents alike.**

## Religious Education Policy

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**Religious Education in a Church School should be of the highest standard, always striving for excellence, reflecting the school's distinctive Christian character.**

Parish CE Primary School is a Voluntary Aided Schools and as such the management of Religious Education is a distinctive role of the Governors and Head Teacher. At Parish Church of England Primary 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.

**Our Mission Statement is:-**

***Achievement, Health, Happiness and Success within our Christian Community are built upon Partnership, Respect and Individual Growth.***

The School's Mission Statement has been agreed by the Staff, Children, Parents and Governors.

We also have a 'child-friendly' version of our Mission Statement, which is an acrostic of the word 'Parish'.

Partnership  
Achievement  
Respect  
Independence  
Success  
Happiness

Our school motto is '***Growing in Christ***'.

**Parish is a Church school and so the teaching of RE lies at the very heart of the curriculum**

- Governors have adopted the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education Syllabus for RE which reflects the National Framework for RE, the National Society Statement of Entitlement and the requirements of SIAMS;
- At least 5% of curriculum time is devoted to RE;
- Christianity plays a central role in RE, taking up to 80% of the time available;
- Appropriate teaching about the Jewish and Islamic faiths and world views is included in the RE curriculum.

**The teaching of Religious Education at Parish maintains a balanced approach between Learning about Religion (Attainment Target 1) and Learning from Religion (Attainment Target 2).**

**AT 1 - Learning about Religion**

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.

**At 2 - Learning from Religion**

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.

**See Appendix 1 for a full overview of the RE curriculum.**

**Religious Education at Parish helps 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.;

**It is necessary in today's world that children should be encouraged to foster a respect for the followers of the other world faiths. It is essential that this respect is based on an accurate and sympathetic understanding of those faiths.**

**Therefore at Parish RE 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 at Parish provides the children with:**

- opportunities to explore the experience of the Church's year;
- study of the story of the local Christian community with its saints and martyrs;
- visits to places of worship, especially the local parish Church and a Cathedral, to develop the understanding of the Church as a living community;
- welcoming visitors from the local parish to share their experience of Christian belief and life;
- liaison with the local parish to enable these visits and links to occur;
- skills to confidently use religious language to express knowledge and opinions;
- a well-used set of Bibles in language that can be understood by the learners and examples of Bibles and prayer books from a variety of contexts;
- the facility to listen to Christian 'psalms, hymns and spiritual songs' from a wide variety of traditions;
- access to Christian artefacts that are used with care, respect and confidence;

**Religious Education at Parish 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 to have a safe place to explore the ultimate questions and challenges of life in today's society.

## **Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural 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.

## **Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting**

The Personal Growth Team Leader, along with Team members is responsible for the monitoring and reviewing of the teaching of RE in school and for reporting standards in RE to the Governing Body. This includes, work scrutiny, pupil interviews, lesson observations and the review of assessment data. The Team Leader is responsible for ensuring that RE is appropriately resourced.

Assessments are carried out on a termly basis in line with recommendations in the Blackburn Diocese Board of Education Syllabus.

Class teachers report on standards in RE to parents in the children's annual progress report.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies:-

- Collective Worship Policy
- Single Equality Policy
- SEND Policy

## **Parental Rights of Withdrawal in a Voluntary Aided School.**

The Worship and Religious Education provided by the school is in accordance with the Church of England. 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.'

**February 2018**

**Review date: February 2021**