



# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

**Religious Education at St Anne's is of the highest standard, always striving for excellence, reflecting the school's distinctive Christian character.**

## Our Mission

At St. Anne's we aim to be a caring Christian school, within the community where everyone is respected and valued. To be a school where all individuals are encouraged to build on their strengths and aspire to be the best they can be.

## Our Vision

Our vision has the promise by Jesus of 'life in all its fullness at its heart. At St Anne's we believe:

- in our children and each other,
- we are uniquely created in the image of God,
- we were made to be awesome,
- that together we are family,
- we were created to live in community,
- in equipping the St Anne's family to be the best we can be,
- in our individual talents and abilities, and
- we can make a difference.

## Our Values

At St Anne's CE Primary School, the following core values underpin all that we do. They are reflected in the daily life of the school and our relationships with other:

Respect, Thankfulness, Hope, Forgiveness, Love and Faithfulness.

'...let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your father in heaven.'

*Matthew 5:16*

'I thank you because I am awesomely made...' *Psalm 139:14*

'...I come that they may have life and have it to the full.' *John 10:10*

St Anne's is a Voluntary Aided School so the leadership and management of Religious Education is a distinctive role of the governors, head teacher and senior leadership team. The Governing Body as a whole is responsible for determining the nature of Religious Education provided in its school.

At St Anne's we use the Blackburn Diocese syllabus 2017 to teach RE which fulfils all legal requirements and the RE Statement of Entitlement from the Church of England Education Office 2016. 'Understanding Christianity' is used a supplementary resource which helps to fulfil the 80% of the RE curriculum requirement that is dedicated to Christianity.

Although Religious Education and Collective Worship naturally compliment and enrich one another, they are led and managed separately. Currently, the RE is led and managed by the subject leader and collective worship is led and managed by the head teacher.

### **Religious Education in our school lies at the very heart of the curriculum.**

*"In Church of England schools the students 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. Church schools should 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. Church schools should use some form of enquiry approach that engages with, for example biblical text, and helps develop religious and theological literacy. Links with the Christian values of the school and spiritual, moral, social and cultural development are intrinsic to the RE curriculum and should have a significant impact on learners."*

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

*"Christianity should be the majority study in RE in every school. In Church schools that should be clearly adhered to. KS 1 – 3 at least 2/3rds of RE curriculum is to be Christianity. Sufficient dedicated curriculum time, meeting explicitly RE objectives, however organised, should be committed to the delivery of RE. This should aim to be close to 10% but must be no less than 5%."*

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

### **The intent of Religious Education at St Anne's 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.

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

**Appropriate to age at the end of their education at St Anne's the expectation is that all pupils are religiously literate and, as a minimum, pupils will be 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.

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

**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 at St Anne's will 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 St Anne's will 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 at St Anne's will 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.

**Emphasise the significant contribution RE makes to pupils' Spiritual, Moral Social and Cultural development.**

- SEN provision – see the teaching and learning policy and SEND policy
- The contribution of RE to Christian and British values- see British values policy
- Resources
- Assessment and record keeping which should be in accordance with guidance given in the BDBE RE Syllabus.

Parents may withdraw their children from Religious Education as they may in any school and this opportunity **must** be described in the policy and school brochure. The Church of England Board of Education and the Methodist Church states:

‘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.’

If such a request for withdrawal is made, the Head teacher should explore the reasons for the request and seek to arrive at an accommodation. It may be that only some elements of Religious Education or Worship are objected to.

Parents may request the governing board to provide Religious Education for their children according to the locally Agreed Syllabus. This can only be requested when parents cannot, with reasonable convenience, arrange for their children to attend another school where Religious Education is provided according to the locally Agreed Syllabus. The governing board **should** make provision unless the circumstances make it unreasonable to do so.

Should the governing board be unable to make such arrangements for Religious Education to be delivered according to the Agreed Syllabus, the responsibility for doing so then falls on the Local Authority. The Local Authority may decide that such a request for separate Religious Education is unreasonable and the parental request then fails.

### **Implementation**

- 1 hour per week is dedicated to RE curriculum teaching
- Use the SASA bag for a Christian value warm up to increase children's spirituality and reflection – evidence
- Follow the 2017 Diocesan scheme
- Use '*Understanding Christianity*' to compliment the syllabus units
- Teachers to teach RE (core subject)
- Children record individually in own exercise books
- Children record collectively in class big book
- Key questions must be asked, answered and evidenced
- Non-faith units to be taught 20% of the RE time-follow unit plans and guidance for these
- Foundation Stage to use chatterboxes to teach from
- Assessment to be done at the end of a unit (half termly) and handed to subject leader using the given proforma
- Follow the current collective worship timetable (changing frequently due to COVID-19 restrictions)

**Subject Leader:** Jayne Webb

**Head teacher:** Jayne Webb

**Review Date:** September 2023