

# Grimsargh St Michael's C of E Primary School



## Religious Education Policy

*Let your light shine before people so that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven*  
(Matthew 5: v.16)

Inspiring, believing and achieving in our loving Christian community.

This policy reflects the school values and philosophy in relation to the teaching and learning of religious education at Grimsargh St Michael's. It sets out a framework within which teaching and non-teaching staff can operate, and gives guidance on planning, teaching and assessment. This document is intended for all teaching and non-teaching staff with classroom responsibilities and school governors. Copies of this policy will be available for parents who wish to see it and this can be requested at the school office.

The Mission Statement for Religious Education:

The school believes RE has a key role in enabling pupils to develop values, attitudes and beliefs, respect for other religions and ways of life. It is hoped that RE will support pupils in the formation of their own beliefs, values and attitudes, which they might develop fully in a rapidly changing world.

At Grimsargh St Michael's, a Voluntary Aided School, the management of Religious Education is a distinctive role of the governors and headteacher. RE is in accordance with the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England. Although Religious Education and Collective Worship naturally compliment and enrich one another, they are managed separately.

Religious Education in Grimsargh St Michael's School lies at the very heart of the curriculum

- the Governors have adopted the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education Syllabus for RE, Questful RE online, which reflects the National Framework for RE, the National Society Statement of Entitlement and the requirements of SIAMS.

### RE Statement of Entitlement for the Church of England 2019

"In a Church school the pupils and their families can expect an RE curriculum that enables pupils to acquire a rich, deep knowledge and understanding of Christian belief and practice, this should include the ways in which it is unique and diverse. Parents can expect the use of high-quality resources, for example, the Understanding Christianity resource. Pupils can expect that teaching and learning in Church schools will use an approach that engages with biblical text and theological ideas. Pupils can expect that a Church school RE curriculum will engage and challenge them through an exploration of core concepts and questions. They can expect Church schools to provide meaningful and informed dialogue with a range of religions and worldviews. There should be opportunities for them to understand the role of foundational texts, beliefs, rituals, and practices and how they help

form identity in a range of religions and worldviews. Pupils should explore how these may change in different times, places and cultures. RE will go beyond a sociological study of religious phenomena and will introduce pupils to a range of relevant disciplines including theology, philosophy and the human and social sciences. In all Church schools progress in RE should be significant and attainment high enabling pupils to develop confident religious literacy.”

- At least 5% of curriculum time is devoted to RE;
- Christianity plays a central role taking up between two thirds and three quarters of the RE curriculum time available;
- Appropriate teaching about other faiths and world views is included.

The aims of Religious Education in Church Schools are:

- To know about and understand Christianity as a diverse global living faith through the exploration of core beliefs using an approach that critically engages with biblical text.
- To gain knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews appreciating diversity, continuity and change within the religions and worldviews being studied.
- To engage with challenging questions of meaning and purpose raised by human existence and experience.
- To recognise the concept of religion and its continuing influence on Britain’s cultural heritage and in the lives of individuals and societies in different times, cultures and places.
- To explore their own religious, spiritual and philosophical ways living, believing and thinking.

RE Statement of Entitlement: The Church of England Education Office 2019

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 all 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 in Church Schools should also help pupils to:

- learn about all 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 in Church Schools 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 all 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 in Church Schools 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 all 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.

RE makes a significant contribution to pupils' Spiritual, Moral Social and Cultural development.

### **SEN provision**

It is the school's policy to ensure that work is matched to pupils' needs. Each teacher will plan work accordingly to provide for pupils of differing abilities. RE is planned to be creative and challenging for the children. RE is delivered through a variety of teaching methods to increase accessibility of all children. Challenging work is planned to enable children to achieve their full potential.

### **Resources**

Each unit on the BDBE Syllabus (Questful RE) has been resourced to date and resources are kept in the relevant classrooms or stored centrally in the Nurture room. An audit is made annually and resources updated or replaced and any requests for resources needed for particular units purchased. We have a variety of resources – books, artefacts and posters.

### **Assessment and Record Keeping**

This is in accordance with guidance given in the BDBE RE Syllabus (Questful RE). We ensure that work planned for children enables them to achieve a level in line with what they are capable of achieving elsewhere in the National Curriculum. Children are encouraged to reflect on their work.

### **Parental Rights of Withdrawal**

The Parental Rights of Withdrawal in a Voluntary Aided School. Parents may request the governing body to provide Religious Education for their children according to the 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 Agreed Syllabus. The governing body should make provision unless the circumstances make it unreasonable to do so. Should the governing body 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.

Parents may withdraw their children from Religious Education as they may in any 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, 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. For more information about the right to withdraw a child from RE, please refer to the document on the school website (Curriculum, RE).

Signed: **Miss Helen Smith**

Date: **September 2023**

Review Date: **September 2024**

Agreed by the Curriculum Committee: