

St Ann's C.E. Primary School



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

*¹¹“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD,
“plans to prosper you and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope and a future.”*

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

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Jeremiah 29:11



God's word to the Israelites was given by the prophet Jeremiah when they were in a time of desperation as captives. This was not a promise of immediate rescue from their plight but God's hope of a future to see them through. The Israelites were encouraged to settle down, build houses, marry and even pray for the peace and prosperity of the city in which they now found themselves. This verse is not an assurance to immediately rescue us from hardship or suffering, but rather a promise that God has a plan for our lives and, regardless of our current situation, He can work through it to prosper us and give us a hope and a future.

By providing an excellent broad and balanced education, through which Christian values permeate, we will give our community hope for their future, enabling them to flourish. We want children to become resilient individuals with the skills, knowledge and understanding to make wise choices - building a positive future for themselves and others, and understanding that everyone matters.

Educating for wisdom, knowledge and skills

Educating for hope and aspiration

**Educating for community and living well
together**

Educating for dignity and respect

*The vision for St Ann's is underpinned by the
Church of England's Vision for Education.*

St Ann's CE Primary School Mission Statement

St. Ann's Church of England Primary School is one of the family of church schools within the Liverpool Diocese. Our welcoming school is at the heart of the community and is distinguished by its nurturing ethos which is underpinned by Christian values.

Excellent teaching makes learning exciting and accessible for all and we challenge our children to develop a love of learning and to reach their full potential.

Throughout their school journey we encourage children to grow as resilient individuals who aspire to search out and grasp all of life's opportunities, making wise choices in order to build a positive future for themselves and others. Our vision is that our children leave the school as compassionate citizens who respect the rights, beliefs and individuality of others.

Our Values

Christian values are at the very foundation and heart of our school ethos. We have 6 adopted core values which represent our vision and mission: Perseverance, Forgiveness and Reconciliation, Trust and Honesty, Respect, Hope, and Peace. Alongside these 6, each half term we focus on a further, individual Christian Value.



Introduction

Religious Education in a Church school should enable every child to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10). It will help educate for dignity and respect encouraging all to live well together.

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

RE is an academic subject that has a high profile in our school curriculum. It is a priority for senior leaders, who ensure that the teaching, learning and resourcing of RE is comparable with other curriculum subjects.

This means that the RE curriculum:

- is intrinsic to the outworking of our distinctive Christian vision in enabling all pupils to flourish. In addition, it contributes to British values and to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- reflects a good balance between the disciplines of theology, philosophy and human science, to enable pupils to develop their religious literacy. (Helping children and young people hold balanced and well-informed conversations about religion and belief. *Key Principles of a balanced curriculum in RE.*)
- allows children time and support to develop their own beliefs, values and attitudes and to think deeply and reflect on their own religious beliefs as well as those of other faiths.
- supports the development of other curriculum areas and other general educational abilities such as literacy, empathy and the ability to express thoughts, feelings and personal beliefs.
- embodies the school ethos: 'Where everyone matters' and our verse *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."* Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

How RE expresses the school Christian Vision

Through RE pupils will use Biblical text and other sources to explore the many times (past and present) that God has provided a hope and a future for His people; ultimately for all in the death and resurrection of Jesus, but also with individual dealings with people such as Moses at the Red Sea, Sarah becoming a mother, the conversion of Saul to Paul.

Biblical accounts alongside more modern testimonies, make explicit the heart of God and through an RE focus on our Christian values and key drivers (*hope, perseverance, respect*) we aim for pupils to engage with this in order to help them to begin to experience the Fulness of Life.

RE lessons at St Ann's provide a safe place in which children are encouraged to ask questions and share thoughts and discussion. Pupils explore other world faiths and their impact on society & culture; Christianity as a world faith; and the effect Christianity has on lives of people worldwide. This is underpinned by our vision and motto, *everyone matters*, along with the drivers: *respect, perseverance and hope*.

Aims of Religious Education

As stated in the Church of England Statement of Entitlement for Religious Education, our school aims for all pupils:

- 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

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* 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 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.
- Develop as spiritual beings who reflect on the awe and wonder of God, beauty, themselves and others

Teaching and learning

To fulfil these aims and ensure our learning is effective, challenging and engaging, pupils are encouraged to develop their attitudes of

- self-awareness
- respect for all
- open-mindedness
- appreciation and wonder

and their skills of

- investigation
- expression
- interpretation
- reflection
- empathy
- application
- discernment
- analysis.

Children will have the opportunity to learn through a variety of strategies such as

- Questioning (posing and answering) and discussion
- Stories and Bible reading
- Pictures
- Research
- Visits to places of worship and visitors
- Artefacts
- Building on own experiences and reflection
- Participating in and leading religious festivals/celebrations

and opportunities to express themselves through medium such as

- Writing
- Poetry
- Art
- Discussion
- Drama and role-play.

Our displays and classroom reflection areas present and echo the importance we place upon Religious Education within our curriculum. Each classroom has space for a designated Reflection Area which the children may freely access, engaging with the interactive aspects integrated within the displays.

We encourage pupils to pose big questions of their own. This develops pupil imagination and fascination in the world we live in, and offers opportunities for reflection and debate over potential answers.

Curriculum Overview

The Governors of St Ann's, have adopted the Questful RE Syllabus as recommended by the Liverpool Diocese Board of Education which fulfils all legal requirements and the RE Statement of Entitlement from the Church of England Education Office 2019.

Long- term plans for RE can be found on the school website.

Content and Time Requirements

Christianity is the majority study in each year group in RE and is at least 50% of curriculum time. The RE entitlement is a totally separate requirement from Collective Worship which is not considered curriculum time for RE or the teaching of RE.

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

At St Ann's, in Key Stage One, 36 hours per year is given to the learning and teaching of RE (20% which is approximately 7 hours of this time will be spent learning about other faiths)

At Key Stage Two, 45 hours per year is given to the learning and teaching of RE (20% which is approximately 9 hours of this time will be spent learning about other faiths). Long term planning for RE is outlined in the appendices and on the school Website.

British Values

The fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs are actively promoted as part of Christian Values teaching and living our day to day school life. Through RE, further opportunities to explore these issues are taken where possible and appropriate.

Religious Education at St Ann's 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.

Pupil's Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development

- Spiritual development within RE enriches and encourages the pupil's discovery of God the creator, of their 'inmost being' and of the wonder and beauty of the environment, how they relate to themselves and others as spiritual beings.
- 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.

Assessment and Recording

Children's written work is regularly marked and as part of this feedback, the teacher may pose a question to further challenge deeper thinking or to address misconceptions.

Assessment is built into each unit of work. The strategies for assessment include assessing children's work, including work in books and from observations and discussions during learning activities is used to judge whether each child is working towards, at or exceeding the 'statements' in the ladder of expectation within the Questful RE scheme. Evidence of achievement, experiences and class activities are kept in Class Reflection books and Big Books which demonstrate progress as cohorts move through the school.

At the end of the year the information from the different assessments is brought together, giving most weight to the most recent assessments to form an end of year Teacher Assessment in relation to the ladder of expectation. A comment will also be made in relation to the pupil's progress on their End of Year Report.

Staff work in phases to moderate RE work and levels of attainment. Samples of work are also moderated with other CE schools locally.

Inclusion

We believe that equality at our school should permeate all aspects of school life and is the responsibility of every member of the school and wider community. Every member of the school community should feel safe, secure, valued and of equal worth. At St. Ann's C.E. Primary School, equality is a key principle for treating all people the same as we believe that every human being without exception has innate dignity, being made in the image of God.

All children are entitled to equality of access to the full range of educational experiences available. All teaching and learning situations will take account of the range of abilities and work will be differentiated accordingly.

It is the responsibility of all teachers and support staff to ensure that pupils are taught and assessed appropriately according to their needs. Further, the school undertakes the procedures recommended by the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice to ensure that parents and pupils are fully involved in all decision making and support programmes.

Equal Opportunities

We believe that equality at our school should permeate all aspects of school life and is the responsibility of every member of the school and wider community. Every member of the school community should feel safe, secure, valued and of equal worth. At St. Ann's C.E. Primary School, equality is a key principle for treating all people the same as we believe that every human being without exception has innate dignity, being made in the image of God.

Resources

A selection of reference materials for RE is available on the Questful RE website. Resources for Religious Education include information books, teacher resource books, religious art work, artefacts, music, photographs, ICT material and video clips. These resources are regularly updated according to changing needs. Additionally, the Questful RE has aspects of Understanding Christianity built into the units to develop children's understanding of the Christian faith.

Management

The management of RE, at St Ann's, is a distinctive role of the governors and head teacher. RE teaching is in accordance with the Trust Deed and in accordance with the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England. The Governing Body as a whole is responsible for determining the nature of Religious Education provided in the school.

Although Religious Education and Collective Worship naturally compliment and enrich each other, they are managed separately.

Subject Coordinator

As part of their subject leader role the RE Co-ordinators will

- Be responsible for the development of Religious Education as a subject throughout the school.
- Draw up an Action Plan for Religious Education. The Action plan outlines the Subject Leader's proposals in relation to the RE Policy, Scheme of Work, resources and monitoring of Religious Education which is then added to the School Improvement Plan.
- Be responsible for the purchase and storage of RE resources.
- Ensure teachers have sufficient training and subject knowledge to deliver high quality lessons.

Monitoring

The RE Coordinator will also support the SLT with monitoring of the subject.

- Undertake specific monitoring activities including learning walks, discussions with pupils, lesson observations, a book/work scrutiny and planning sample across the school.
- With the co-operation and support of the staff, create a portfolio of evidence of the RE taking place throughout the school. The purpose of this will be to monitor standards and achievements and to ensure that all children are experiencing creative and challenging RE. It will also act as a portfolio of celebration and success regarding the distinctive quality of RE in our Church school.
- Provide support and guidance for new members of staff, in particular ECTs, so that they can feel confident to teach and deliver RE to the standards required for our Church school.

- Provide feedback from courses and RE cluster meetings in order to ensure that staff are kept informed and up to date with the latest developments and feel equipped to deliver and teach RE lessons to the best of their ability.

The legal position of RE/Rights of Withdrawal

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.

Our school curriculum for Religious Education meets the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act (ERA). The ERA stipulates that religious education is compulsory for all children, including those in reception class who are less than five years old. The ERA states that the RE syllabus should reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian and that it should, at the same time, take account of teachings and practices of other major religions. The ERA allows parents the right to withdraw their child from Religious Education classes if they so wish, although this should only be done once the parents have given written notice to the school governors. In all cases the Headteacher will wish to discuss with the parent(s)/carer(s) the implications of their request.

This RE policy was reviewed by the Head teacher: Mrs K Keen. September 2024