



## St Barnabas CE Primary School

*"Preparing for a positive future, achieved through faith."*

Christian values are central to the life of our school, where we are devoted to inspire our children to succeed, flourish and live life in all its fullness.

*"Let your light shine."*

Matthew 5:16

## Religious Education Policy

|                                        |                   |
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| Policy Updated:                        | September 2026    |
| Date reviewed and agreed by Governors: |                   |
| Date of next review:                   | September 2027    |
| Headteacher:                           | Miss J Hodgkinson |
| Chair of Governors:                    | Mr C Kressel      |



## **Vision Statement**

'Preparing for a positive future achieved through faith.'

'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16

*At St Barnabas CE Primary School we prepare our children for a positive future, achieved through faith and give our children the self-belief, knowledge, skills and love of learning, to 'let their light shine:' to pursue their dreams, be the best they can be, flourish and live life in all its fullness.*

As a church school we take the teachings of the Bible and the life of Jesus as our foundation and the inspiration for our school vision and chosen values.

*"During the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus made it clear that we are the light of the world. We are called to shine. But the light we share is not our own."*

Our school vision and values act as a guide to enable all pupils to become effective learners and good citizens, they act a moral compass to guide them both now and in the future.

Each Christian value historically refers to values derived from the teachings of Jesus Christ. These values highlight the distinctive nature of a Church of England school, the values support the Christian vision of education, one that is generous and that seeks to allow the riches of Christian life to overflow to those of other faiths or no faith. Our school vision and values encourage tolerance, understanding and acknowledgement of all faiths, cultures and communities.

Spiritual development at St. Barnabas CE Primary School enables our whole school community to flourish, as we become aware of God, one another, the world around us and ourselves.

### **Vision Statement for RE**

In line with our Christian vision we are committed to providing high quality RE provision that enables all pupils to flourish. The Religious Education curriculum at St. Barnabas School enables and encourages all children to develop a self-awareness of their own ideas and to recognise their own uniqueness and self-worth. The curriculum allows all children to personally reflect and develop their own spirituality, while also developing a respect and understanding for the different religious faiths and beliefs of others.

Through the teaching of RE we seek to enable each child to develop their own relationship with God, should they wish to do so, and be given an insight into what it means to be a person of faith. We also want children from different faith backgrounds to be encouraged in their faith.

In Voluntary Aided schools such as ours the management of Religious Education is a distinctive role of the governing body and the Head teacher. RE is provided in accordance with the school's Trust Deed and in accordance with rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England. The Governing

Body as a whole is responsible for determining the nature of RE provided in our school. As a school we follow the Liverpool Diocese RE scheme, 'Questful RE'.

### **Christian Values**

Religious Education strengthens and supports the distinctive Christian character of our school and reaffirms our school's Christian values which are at the heart of teaching and learning in our school. We encourage all of our children to put these values into practice in every aspect of school life with each class having a value introduced to them as they progress through school. Our core school values are:

- Friendship
- Creativity
- Truthfulness
- Peace
- Responsibility
- Compassion
- Justice
- Perseverance

Although Religious Education, school values and Collective Worship naturally compliment and enrich one another, they are managed separately – see Collective Worship Policy. At times our Worship Value themes link clearly to RE, because they do, by nature, complement each other.

### **Our RE Curriculum**

Governors have adopted the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education Syllabus, as recommended by Liverpool Diocese, which fulfils all legal requirements and the RE Statement of Entitlement from the Church of England Education Office 2016.

*"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**

At St.Barnabas School our RE provision enables all children to make excellent progress in their knowledge and understanding of Christianity. The aims of the RE curriculum as listed within the RE vision, provision and impact document. Pupils develop their skills of enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and reflection and also develop theological understanding, philosophical thinking and sociological application through the use of prompts such as Biblical texts and the use of big questions.

We provide a rich and varied RE curriculum making full use of a variety of teaching strategies to engage pupils in their learning for example, by using drama, art and music.

We strive to give all children the opportunity to acquire a thorough knowledge of the Christian faith. We endeavour to give children the opportunity to respond personally to the stories and teachings of Jesus. We also provide children with a range of opportunities to make links between the beliefs and practices of different faiths. KS2 children record their thoughts, findings and ideas in their individual RE book. Each class also has an RE Celebration book where additional discussions, samples of work and photographs of practical activities can be recorded.

We use our RE Syllabus for all planning and supplement this with some Understanding Christianity resources, such as the Big Frieze artwork by Emma Yarlett. Here we learn about God's Big Story: God, Creation, Fall, People of God, Incarnation, Gospel, Salvation, Kingdom of God.

We learn about

- God who reveals himself through creation
- God who reveals himself through Jesus his Son
- God who reveals himself in his Spirit

### **Time Allocation**

We aim to allocate approximately 10% of teaching and learning time to RE and never less than 5% as an absolute minimum. This is in line with national and diocesan guidelines.

*"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**

Out of the curriculum time for RE, Christianity occupies at least 50% of this time, with the rest divided between non-Christian faiths and world views. The other world faiths studied progressively are Judaism, Islam, Hinduism. Buddhism and non-religious world views including humanism are also encountered. The curriculum is also enhanced through termly Value Days which enable children to further broaden their knowledge and understanding.

### **Assessment**

Assessment takes place informally throughout the year, using 'Checkpoints' throughout each unit. Staff also assess at the end of a unit of work based on the 'Expected Standards of Attainment', which detail the expected standard for the end of EYFS, KS1, LKS2 and UKS2. The standards are separated into the three disciplines (ways of knowing) of theology, philosophy and human social sciences. Data is then shared with Governors and the SLT.

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

We make links to SMSC through the whole of our curriculum – see SMSC Policy, Spirituality Policy

SMSC links to RE through:

- Experiencing awe and wonder of the world, through different stories, celebrations and rituals within our world.
- Having the opportunity to ask and reflect upon meaningful questions.

- Discussing ideas/questions about God and evaluating given responses.
- Exploring whole school and class worship times, thinking about the impact these have on our own lives and the lives of others.
- Exploring morality through the teachings of all faiths
- Exploring injustice in the world, both through religious perspectives and own reflections on this.
- Considering the needs of people who are less fortunate than us, through fundraising for different charities.
- Exploring our Christian values, thinking carefully about why these are important within our society.
- Exploring our British values, again thinking about why these have a place within our society.
- Exploring similarities and differences between faiths and cultures.
- Looking at a variety of texts and artefacts from different cultures.

### **SEND Provision**

Through inclusion for all, we strive to ensure that every child fulfils their own potential. We want all children to develop a sense of themselves as unique and precious. Teachers will plan RE sessions with children's needs and abilities in mind. As with all areas of the curriculum, differentiation ensures that children will receive further support if needed.

### **British Values**

Within RE, we recognise and respect people of different faiths. We give children the opportunity to discuss the importance of rules and the consequences of not following these. We want everyone to be able to talk freely about their own personal beliefs and practices without fear. We want to provide a safe place to explore the ultimate questions and challenges of life in today's society and give children the opportunity to engage in thoughtful, reflective dialogue with other faiths and traditions

### **RE Curriculum Leader**

The role of the RE subject leader is to:

- Be responsible for developing annual action plan, monitoring and evaluating the success of the plan and reporting this to the SMT and Governors.
- Providing RE resources.
- Be responsible for the development of RE throughout the school.
- Monitor the effectiveness of RE in school and address any issues.
- Support teachers in the delivery of the RE curriculum.
- Be responsible for providing appropriate resources and training.
- Disseminate new strategies and information.

### **Parental Right of Withdrawal**

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from Religious Education. When children join our school parents are made aware that:

*'The Worship and Religious Education provided by our 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 a request for withdrawal from RE is made, parents will be asked to meet with the Headteacher who will explore the reasons for the request and seek to arrive at an accommodation.