

**ST ANNE'S CE (AIDED) PRIMARY
SCHOOL**



**Religious Education
Policy**

MISSION STATEMENT

GROWING TOGETHER TO FLOURISH IN GOD'S WORLD

RATIONALE

ST ANNE'S CE (AIDED) PRIMARY SCHOOL IS MADE UP OF STAFF AND PUPILS WHO COME FROM MANY DIFFERENT CULTURES AND FAITHS. IT IS OUR AIM TO CELEBRATE THIS DIVERSITY AS WELL AS UPHOLD OUR CHRISTIAN IDENTITY AS A VOLUNTARY AIDED CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL.

AT ST ANNE'S WE HAVE A DUE REGARD FOR OUR DUTIES UNDER THE EQUALITY ACT 2010. THROUGH THE DELIVERY OF THE RE CURRICULUM, WE WILL ENSURE THAT WE WORK TO ELIMINATE DISCRIMINATION, CHALLENGE STEREOTYPES, ADVANCE EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY AND FOSTER GOOD RELATIONS.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

RE AT OUR SCHOOL IS TAUGHT WITHIN THE TERMS LAID OUT BY THE SCHOOL'S TRUST DEEDS. IT IS TAUGHT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BLACKBURN DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION SYLLABUS FOR RE.

WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE LAW AND THE DIOCESAN SYLLABUS WE AIM TO:

- PROVIDE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TO ALL CHILDREN REGISTERED AT OUR SCHOOL.
- DELIVER LESSONS WHICH TAKE CHILDREN ON A QUEST TO DISCOVER MORE ABOUT THEMSELVES, OTHERS, THE WORLD AND GOD.
- ENABLE PUPILS TO KNOW ABOUT AND UNDERSTAND THE BELIEFS AND PRACTICES OF SOME OF THE GREAT RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD, PARTICULARLY THOSE REPRESENTED IN OLDHAM AND THE UK. THE CONTENT OF RE SHALL REFLECT THE FACT THAT RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS IN THE UK ARE IN THE MAIN CHRISTIAN, WHILE TAKING ACCOUNT OF THE TEACHING AND PRACTICES OF OTHER PRINCIPAL RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS REPRESENTED IN THE UK;
- ENABLE EACH CHILD TO EXPLORE OUR SHARED HUMAN EXPERIENCE AND THE QUESTIONS OF MEANING AND PURPOSE WHICH ARISE FROM OUR EXPERIENCES;
- PROMOTE RESPECT, SENSITIVITY AND CULTURAL AWARENESS BY TEACHING ABOUT THE RELIGIONS REPRESENTED IN OUR REGION AND THE UK;
- AFFIRM EACH CHILD IN HIS/HER OWN FAMILY TRADITION;
- PROVIDE HIGH QUALITY OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT;
- DEVELOP THE ABILITY OF PUPILS TO THINK ABOUT, AND DEVELOP FOR THEMSELVES, BELIEFS AND VALUES BY WHICH THEY CAN LIVE THROUGH STUDYING CONCEPTS LIKE CELEBRATION, THE SACRED, AUTHORITY, RELIGIOUS BELIEF AND LIFESTYLE, AND THROUGH EXPLORING THE FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS OF LIFE.
- ENABLE CHILDREN TO RESPECT THE CULTURE, RACE, FEELING, BELIEFS AND VALUES OF OTHERS.
- PREPARE CHILDREN FOR LIFE AND WORK IN BRITAIN TODAY, INCLUDING PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, BEHAVIOUR AND WELFARE.

PARENTS ARE INFORMED IN THE SCHOOL PROSPECTUS THAT THEY HAVE THE RIGHT TO WITHDRAW THEIR CHILDREN FROM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION. PARENTS WHO CHOOSE TO WITHDRAW THEIR CHILDREN ARE REQUIRED TO STATE THIS IN WRITING ANNUALLY TO THE HEADTEACHER. HOWEVER, IN LIGHT OF OUR ADMISSIONS POLICY, IT IS OUR HOPE THAT THIS SHOULD NOT BE NECESSARY AND PARENTS WHO HAVE SPECIFICALLY CHOSEN OUR SCHOOL

WILL WISH THEIR CHILDREN TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP.

CONTEXT

- THE CONTEXT OF RE AT ST ANNE'S IS THAT OF A LARGER THAN AVERAGE PRIMARY SCHOOL SERVING CHILDREN AGED 3 TO 11.
- WE WORK WITHIN THE BLACKBURN DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION SYLLABUS.
- WE RECOGNIZE THE VARIETY OF RELIGIOUS AND NON RELIGIOUS BACKGROUNDS FROM WHICH OUR PUPILS COME FROM. WE WELCOME THE DIVERSITY, AND WE INTEND TO BE SENSITIVE TO THE HOME BACKGROUND OF EACH CHILD.
- WE ARE PLEASED TO HAVE THE ACTIVE SUPPORT OF MEMBERS OF ST ANNE'S CHURCH AND LOCAL FAITH GROUPS IN RE AND IN GENERAL.
- WE RECOGNIZE THE INTER-RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PUPIL'S SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND THE LEADING ROLE WHICH THE RE CURRICULUM PLAYS IN SOME OF THESE AREAS.

TIME ALLOCATION

RE IS REGARDED AS A CORE SUBJECT AT OUR SCHOOL AND AT LEAST 1 HOUR PER WEEK IS THE ALLOCATED TIME. RE CURRICULUM TIME DOES NOT INCLUDE ASSEMBLY OR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP, EVEN WHERE THE THEME PROVIDES A STARTING POINT FOR CURRICULAR WORK. WE FOLLOW THIS AND OFFER THE FLEXIBILITY OF TIMINGS BEING ACCUMULATED TO ALLOW FOR A CREATIVE, THEMATIC APPROACH TO THE CURRICULUM. THE PROVISION OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IS STATUTORY FOR CHILDREN IN RECEPTION CLASSES. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IS NOT COMPULSORY FOR NURSERY CHILDREN BUT WE PROVIDE SUITABLE ACTIVITIES, USING CHATTERBOXES TO ENCOURAGE QUESTIONS AND REFLECTION, AND CHOOSE TO MAKE USE OF THE MATERIAL FROM THE DIOCESAN SYLLABUS.

THE SCHEME OF WORK

A DETAILED SCHEME OF WORK IS AVAILABLE FROM BLACKBURN DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION SYLLABUS.

PUPILS WILL EXPERIENCE, EXPLORE AND ENCOUNTER A WIDE RANGE OF CREATIVE AND CHALLENGING ACTIVITIES THAT WILL HELP THEM TO DISCOVER THE ANSWERS TO ULTIMATE QUESTIONS SUCH AS THESE:-

WHO AM I AND WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE ME?

IN WHAT WAYS DO/CAN I RELATE TO OTHERS?

HOW/WHERE CAN I ENCOUNTER GOD?

HOW CAN I MAKE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO THE WORLD IN WHICH I LIVE?

WHAT VALUES, ATTITUDES, BELIEFS AND BEHAVIOUR ARE IMPORTANT TO ME?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO HAVE FAITH?

WHO/WHAT INFLUENCES AND INSPIRES ME?

WE TEACH 80% CHRISTIANITY AND 20% OTHER FAITHS.

CHRISTIANITY

AT FOUNDATION STAGE AND KS1 CHRISTIANITY AND ISLAM ARE THE MAJOR RELIGIONS STUDIED. AT KS2 PUPILS CONTINUE TO LEARN ABOUT CHRISTIANITY AND ISLAM THROUGHOUT THE KEY STAGE. THEY ALSO HAVE MAJOR LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES WITH REGARD TO JUDAISM AND HINDUISM. FESTIVALS FROM DIFFERENT FAITHS ARE CELEBRATED, AS THEY OCCUR, TO DEVELOP CHILDREN'S EMPATHY WITH OTHERS.

THERE IS A COMMITMENT TO QUALITY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TO ENSURE STAFF KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING IS THOROUGH, SENSITIVE AND UP-TO-DATE.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

CHILDREN WILL LEARN ABOUT RELIGIONS AND ALSO FROM RELIGIONS THROUGH A BALANCED APPROACH. WHERE MEANINGFUL, LINKS WILL BE MADE BETWEEN OTHER SUBJECTS AND RE IN A MUTUAL PARTNERSHIP. OUR AIM IS TO INCREASE THE USE OF RE ACROSS THE CURRICULUM USING A RANGE OF TEACHING AND LEARNING STYLES. THESE INCLUDE DEVELOPING LITERACY, NUMERACY, ICT AND KEY SKILLS THROUGH DEEP LEARNING ACTIVITIES WHICH INCLUDE VISITORS, VISITS AND THE USE OF ARTIFACTS. RE IS A KEY OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP CHILDREN SPIRITUALLY, MORALLY, SOCIALLY AND CULTURALLY. IT PROMOTES THE THEMES OF COMMUNITY COHESION AND DEVELOPS A SENSE OF BELONGING TO THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY, THE LOCAL COMMUNITY, THE UK COMMUNITY AND THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY THROUGH FAITH AND CULTURE.

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.

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.

WE ENSURE THAT THE TOPICS STUDIED IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION BUILD UPON PRIOR LEARNING. WE OFFER OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN OF ALL ABILITIES TO DEVELOP THEIR SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING IN EACH UNIT, AND WE ENSURE THAT THE PLANNED PROGRESSION BUILT INTO THE SCHEME OF WORK OFFERS THE CHILDREN AN INCREASING CHALLENGE AS THEY MOVE THROUGH THE SCHOOL.

WE RECOGNISE THE FACT THAT IN OUR SCHOOL WE HAVE CHILDREN OF WIDELY DIFFERING ABILITIES, AND SO WE PROVIDE SUITABLE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL CHILDREN BY MATCHING THE CHALLENGE OF THE TASK TO THE ABILITY OF THE CHILD. WE ACHIEVE THIS THROUGH TEACHERS DIFFERENTIATING THE PLANS FROM THE **BDBE RE SYLLABUS** FOR EACH LESSON THEY TEACH AND BY DIFFERENTIATING THE WORK AND THE LEVEL OF SUPPORT GIVEN.

WE ENCOURAGE PUPILS TO FOSTER A RESPECT FOR THE FOLLOWERS OF OTHER WORLD FAITHS, BASED ON AN ACCURATE AND SYMPATHETIC UNDERSTANDING OF THOSE FAITHS. WE 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.

FOUNDATION STAGE

WE TEACH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TO ALL CHILDREN IN THE SCHOOL, INCLUDING THOSE IN THE EARLY YEARS.

IN THE FOUNDATION STAGE RE IS DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE AN ATMOSPHERE OF COMMUNITY WHERE EVERYONE, CHILD AND ADULT ARE LEARNING TOGETHER. EACH UNIT BEGINS WITH THE EXPLORATION OF A COLLECTION OF OBJECTS IN A BOX, A CHATTERBOX. THE OBJECTS ARE CAREFULLY CHOSEN TO CREATE DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS THAT LEAD TO ACTIVITIES COVERING THE CONTENT OF THE UNIT.

THE UNITS COVERED INCLUDE;

- **HARVEST**
- **CHRISTMAS**
- **EASTER**
- **FRIENDSHIP**
- **I AM SPECIAL**
- **SPECIAL PLACES**
- **SPECIAL TIMES**
- **STORIES JESUS TOLD**
- **STORIES JESUS HEARD**
- **PRAYER**
- **SPECIAL PEOPLE**

THROUGH TEACHING RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN OUR SCHOOL, WE PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT. CHILDREN CONSIDER AND RESPOND TO QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE MEANING AND PURPOSE OF LIFE. WE HELP THEM TO RECOGNISE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RIGHT AND WRONG THROUGH THE STUDY OF MORAL AND ETHICAL QUESTIONS. WE ENHANCE THEIR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT BY HELPING THEM TO BUILD A SENSE OF IDENTITY IN A MULTICULTURAL SOCIETY. CHILDREN EXPLORE ISSUES OF RELIGIOUS FAITH AND VALUES AND, IN SO DOING THEY DEVELOP THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE CULTURAL CONTEXT OF THEIR OWN LIVES.

SMSC

RE IS A KEY OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP CHILDREN SPIRITUALLY, MORALLY, SOCIALLY AND CULTURALLY. IT PROMOTES THE THEMES OF COMMUNITY COHESION AND DEVELOPS A SENSE OF BELONGING TO THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY, THE LOCAL COMMUNITY, THE UK COMMUNITY AND THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY THROUGH FAITH AND CULTURE.

CHILDREN'S SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT IS ENRICHED DURING RE AND ENCOURAGES THE DISCOVERY OF GOD THE CREATOR, OF THEIR 'INMOST BEING' AND OF THE WONDER OF THE ENVIRONMENT. CHILDREN LEARN ABOUT THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS CHRIST, WHICH OFFERS A SECURE FOUNDATION STONE, ON WHICH TO MAKE DECISIONS AND BUILD THEIR LIVES, ENHANCING MORAL DEVELOPMENT.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IS ENRICHED WHEN CHILDREN DISCOVER AND UNDERSTAND WHAT IT MEANS TO LIVE IN A CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY WHERE JESUS' COMMAND TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER IS PUT INTO PRACTICE. UNDERSTANDING CHRISTIANITY AS A WORLDWIDE, MULTI-CULTURAL FAITH THAT HAS AN IMPACT ON THE LIVES OF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE, PROMOTES CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

CLASSROOM AND SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

IN LINE WITH WHOLE SCHOOL POLICY AND PRACTICE WE CELEBRATE AND VALUE THE WORK OF THE PUPILS. CREATING A STIMULATING AND AN ATTRACTIVE ENVIRONMENT IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE AND SO THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES ARE IN PLACE:

- ✦ **IN EVERY CLASS THERE IS A 'WALL OF WONDER' RE DISPLAY BOARD. THIS INCLUDES THE HOME TIME AND LUNCH TIME PRAYERS AS WELL AS DISPLAYS OF THE PUPILS WORK IN THIS CURRICULUM AREA.**

- + RELIGIOUS EDUCATION HAS A MAJOR CURRICULUM FOCUS WITHIN THE GENERAL CURRICULUM EVENT CYCLE WHERE DISPLAYS AND ADDITIONAL EVENTS ARE PLANNED FOR (EXAMPLE RE FOCUS DAYS, HARVEST, CHRISTMAS, LENT AND EASTER).

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

THE TEACHING OF RE IS A VITAL PART OF OUR SCHOOL CURRICULUM FOR ALL CHILDREN. ALL CHILDREN ARE ENCOURAGED TO TAKE A FULL PART IN LESSONS. TEACHERS TAKE INTO ACCOUNT DIFFERING PUPILS' ABILITIES AND WORK IS DIFFERENTIATED ACCORDINGLY. THIS IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR SPECIAL NEEDS POLICY.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

ALL PUPILS WILL HAVE ACCESS TO THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CURRICULUM. WITHIN THIS FRAMEWORK, SENSITIVITY WILL BE SHOWN TO THE RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AND PRACTICES OF ALL CLASS MEMBERS. THIS IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES POLICY.

RECORDING, MARKING, ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING

PUPIL'S WORK IS MARKED IN LINE WITH OUR MARKING POLICY. WE REPORT ON PUPILS' PROGRESS AND ATTAINMENT IN RE TO PARENTS ANNUALLY IN OUR END OF YEAR REPORT. ASSESSMENT OF ATTAINMENT AND MAKING A LEVEL JUDGMENT IS MADE USING ASSESSMENTS FROM THE BLACKBURN DIOCESE MATERIALS.

SELF EVALUATION

THE SUBJECT LEADER WILL MAINTAIN AN ACTIVE AWARENESS OF THE STRENGTHS AND AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF RE ALONGSIDE THE SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM. LONG, MEDIUM AND SHORT TERM RE PLANNING IS COLLECTED FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATION PURPOSES. LESSON OBSERVATIONS WILL ALSO FORM PART OF THE MONITORING AND EVALUATION PROCESS.

THE RE CO-ORDINATOR IS MRS SARAH EVANS

REVIEW

THIS IS A WORKING DOCUMENT AND WILL BE REVIEWED BY THE CO-ORDINATOR IN LIGHT OF DEVELOPING ASPECTS OF POLICY AND PRACTICE.

NEXT REVIEW DATE: MAY 2019