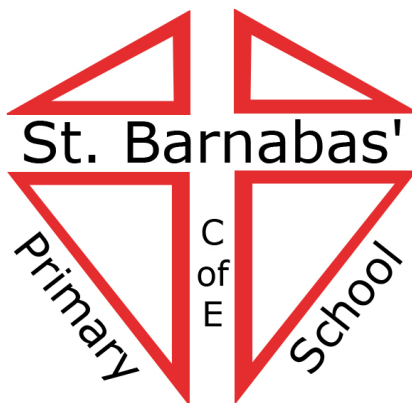


# Policy For



# RE

**This policy was approved by Curriculum Committee**

**On: 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

**Signed.....**

**Position: Chair of Curriculum Committee**

**This policy will be reviewed in Spring 2021**



## HEATON ST.BARNABAS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

#### Rationale

As a church school we see that the Christian faith informs all aspects of our life together and commits us to a search for truth. RE is central to the purpose of St Barnabas CE Primary school.

At our school, religious education is taught in accordance with the Diocese of Leeds Syllabus and reflects the distinctive and inclusive ethos of our Anglican foundation. Religious Education forms the core curriculum, along with the national curriculum subjects. The principle aim of Religious Education is to enable pupils to hold balanced and informed conversations about religion and belief.

RE in St Barnabas' primary school explores how individuals and communities make meaning and sense of their lives through the major religions of the world, focusing primarily on the study of Christianity, Judaism, Hindu and Islam. It enables pupils to know about, understand and respond to the important and ultimate questions of life. RE is taught in such a way that it inspires pupils to explore, develop and affirm their own faith, beliefs and values and have respect for the faith, beliefs and values of others. It is not the practice of this school to preach to or seek to convert children. Values education permeates the RE curriculum at St Barnabas Primary School.

Religious education actively promotes the values of truth, justice, respect for all and care of the environment, in response to God's love for each individual and the world. It places specific emphasis on:

- pupils valuing themselves and others as uniquely created and loved by God
- the role of family and the community in religious belief and activity
- the celebration of diversity in society through understanding similarities and differences
- sustainable development of the earth.

Religious education also recognises the changing nature of society, including changes in religious practice and expression, and the influence of religion in the local, national and global community.

#### Aims

At this school, RE supports and strengthens the vision, ethos and values which are at the heart of what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. The importance placed on the development of the whole child spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected in the RE curriculum.

RE in St Barnabas school aims to help children and young people to:

- recognise that faith is not based on a positive balance of probabilities but on commitment to a particular way of understanding God and the world;
- understand the importance of developing relationships with their fellow human beings and with God;
- think theologically and explore questions of life and death, meaning and purpose;
- reflect critically on the truth claims of Christian belief, with the centrality of Jesus, and the consequences in daily life for believers;
- especially, understand the doctrine of prayer and worship and their importance for believers;
- see how the truth of Christianity is relevant today and face the challenge of Jesus' teaching in a pluralist and post-modern society;

- respond in terms of beliefs, commitments and ways of living;
- develop a sense of themselves as a significant, unique and precious child of God;
- develop a knowledge and understanding of what is right and wrong, according to Christian faith;
- develop their own ideas in the understanding of moral values and to see their sense of right and wrong to solve simple problems;
- develop the skills to handle the Bible text;
- experience the breadth and variety of the Christian community;
- engage in thoughtful dialogue with those of a range of faith traditions' and about a range of faith and non-religious traditions';
- become active citizens, serving their neighbour;
- find a reason for hope in a troubled world;
- understand how religious faith can sustain them in difficult circumstances and in the face of opposition;
- develop a sense of awe, wonder and mystery;
- Encourage pupils to explore their own beliefs (whether they are religious or non-religious).
- Enable pupils to flourish following John's Gospel 10:10 'Life in all its fullness'

### **Legal Framework**

The legal requirements for teaching religious education are set out in the Education Act 1996 and School Standards and Framework Act 1998. Religious education must be taught to all registered pupils in maintained schools, except to those withdrawn by their parents. Religious education is a component of the basic curriculum, to be taught alongside the National Curriculum in all maintained schools.

There is an overall expectation that all children will participate in RE lessons regardless of race, gender, sexuality, special needs or faith. However, parents do have a legal right to withdraw their children from religious education. If parents wish to exercise this right either in part or wholly, they should contact the Headteacher. It is hoped that parents will discuss their concerns with the Headteacher before coming to a decision on this matter.

### **Teaching and Learning**

- The scheme of work for RE is the approved diocesan curriculum. Teachers follow the Understanding Christianity units to teach the 2/3<sup>rd</sup> Christian based content alongside the world faith and thematic units specified within the diocesan syllabus. It is designed to meet the expectations set out in the 'Religious education in church of England Schools'; 'A Statement of Entitlement 2016'. This syllabus promotes broad and rich learning in RE through three core elements: Making sense of belief; Understanding the Impact; Making connections. These elements offer a route through each unit, whilst also allowing for a range of questions reflecting approaches from religious studies, theology, ethics, sociology and philosophy.
- There will be clear learning outcomes for all units of work, based on the appropriate expectations/levels as set out in the RE syllabus.
- The scheme of work will ensure that there is continuity and progression for pupils and opportunities for assessment across all units.
- A range of teaching and learning activities will ensure that pupils learn effectively and with interest. In order to make R.E. a lively and active subject we will employ a variety of teaching methods including art, music, discussion, the development of thinking skills, drama, the use of artefacts, pictures, stories and the use of periods of stillness and reflection.
- Pupil progress and attainment in RE will be tracked and recorded four times per year alongside other core subjects onto the school assessment spreadsheets and the school will keep an up-to-date portfolio of evidence to support assessment data in both RE books and Big Books.
- Progress in RE will form part of pupils' annual report to parents.

- RE will be taught either as a discrete subject through weekly timetabled lessons across school or as part of a cross curricular approach where appropriate.
- A range of visitors will be invited to support the teaching of RE, and where possible, there will be planned visits to places of worship.
- Children will undertake a range of activities which may include whole class teaching, small group work in mixed abilities appropriate to the needs of the children.
- There are annual planned events with Hand2Mouth in school delivering personal year group journeys as well as whole school RE Days.
- The study of Christianity forms two thirds of the curriculum with the one third focusing on major world religions and themes common to religions. In St Barnabas school the faiths taught in depth in RE at KS1 (Years 1-2) are: Christianity, and Judaism; and at LKS2 (Years 3-4): Christianity and Hinduism; and UPKS2 (Years 5-6) Christianity and Islam.
- In accordance with Diocesan policy, sufficient dedicated curriculum time, meeting explicitly RE objectives, however organised, will be committed to the delivery of RE. This should aim to be close to 10% but must be no less than 5%. This is totally separate from the requirements of Collective Worship.
- We will endeavour to cover all other religions as represented by the children in school

### **Subject Leadership**

The role of the subject leadership is:

- To drive improvements in RE by annual action planning and monitoring of the subject
- To implement the school's RE policy and scheme of work, ensuring that an engaging, high-quality RE curriculum is being delivered throughout the school
- To monitor teaching and learning, planning, and pupils' work in RE
- To ensure that the teaching of RE is fully inclusive
- To keep up-to-date with, and enable other members of staff to be aware of, any new developments relating to this curriculum area
- To attend appropriate courses that will enhance the Subject Leader's role and RE in the school generally, as well as informing other staff of INSET opportunities and arranging/delivering INSET within the school
- To extend and update resources as and when necessary, in line with the school's budget arrangements and ensure resources are accessible and well maintained
- To ensure there are opportunities for pupils to experience and respect all faiths within their learning.

### **Monitoring**

The teaching of RE will be monitored and evaluated by the subject leader alongside the Headteacher on a regular basis. This will be through:

- Lesson observations, work sampling and pupil interviews, as part of the wider monitoring and evaluation process at St Barnabas' School.
- Regular meetings between the named governor responsible for RE and the subject co-ordinator in order to review progress.
- Regular reports to the Governing Body of RE progress and attainment through the Headteacher's Report.
- SIAMs (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) external inspection through the Diocese.