



St James' Lanehead Church of England Primary School

# Religious Education Policy

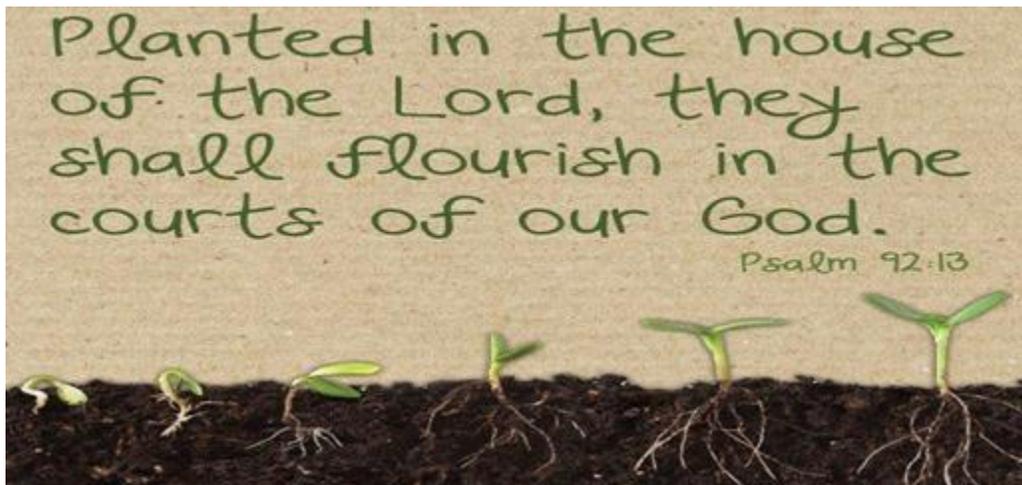
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St James` Lanehead C of E (VA) Primary School

**Mission Statement**

*Our church school seeks to inspire each individual to flourish, grow and learn with Jesus at the heart of all we do.*



*Thankfulness – Trust – Honesty – Friendship – Love – Peace – Forgiveness – Respect - Courage*

## Religious Education Policy

### **Purpose of this document**

This policy reflects the school values and philosophy in relation to the teaching and learning of religious education. It sets out a framework within which teaching staff can operate and gives guidance on planning, teaching and assessment.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Diocesan syllabus. This sets out in more detail areas of study for each class to follow. It is sympathetic to the key stage levels of attainment and gives clear guidance on expected levels of attainment for each year group with indicators for attainment at the end of each key stage.

This document is intended for all teaching staff, support staff, school governors, inspection teams and parents. Further copies are available on request.

### **Our Core Values**

At St. James' we look at the Christian values that we believe are fundamental to our school and to the lives of our children. We explore and reflect upon the Christian values through our collective worship program and focus on one particular value each half term. These values include:

Thankfulness  
Trust  
Honesty  
Friendship  
Love  
Peace  
Forgiveness  
Respect  
Courage

### **Religious Education at St. James' Lanehead**

We try to follow the teaching of Jesus, treating others as we would like to be treated ourselves and living according to the ways of the Christian faith. At our school we feel that if pupils are encouraged to take part in a wide range of activities and experiences across and beyond the curriculum, they are more-able to contribute fully to the life of the school and their community. We feel that our children learn to recognise their own worth within a diverse world and we encourage them to work well with others and become increasingly responsible for their own learning.

### **Management of RE**

In our Voluntary Aided School RE is taught in accordance with our trust deed and 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

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and Collective Worship naturally compliment and enrich each other, they are managed separately. Religious education therefore plays a major part in promoting the Christian aims, values and ethos of the school as expressed in the School's Mission Statement.

## **Content and Time Allocation**

In 2018 the Governors adopted the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education syllabus for the teaching of RE which fulfils all the legal requirements and the RE Statement of Entitlement from the Church of England Education Office 2016. The implementation and co-ordination of this syllabus is the responsibility of the RE Co-ordinator and is monitored and reviewed in line with the School's Development Plan.

Pupils can expect a religious education curriculum that is rich and varied, enabling learners to acquire a thorough knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith. We 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. We encourage our learners to adopt an enquiry approach that engages with 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 has a significant impact on learners. (RE Statement of Entitlement: The Church of England Education Office 2016)

We aim to maintain a balanced approach of learning about religion and learning from religion. We use the Diocesan ladder of expectation to plan and assess both of these elements.

## **Aims**

The aims of Religious Education in Church Schools are:

- To enable pupils to know about and understand Christianity as a living faith that influences the lives of people worldwide and as the religion that has most shaped British culture and heritage.
- To enable pupils to know and understand about other major world religions and world views, their impact on society, culture and the wider world, enabling pupils to express ideas and insights.
- To contribute to the development of pupils' own spiritual/philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own beliefs and values.

## **RE Statement of Entitlement: The Church of England Education Office 2016**

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 other faiths and none.

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- Reflect critically and responsibly on their own spiritual, philosophical and ethical convictions.

**At St. James' Lanehead C. of E. School 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.

**At St. James' Lanehead C. of E. School 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.

As a Church school we aim to encourage a positive self-image within our children as they explore the wonder of God's world and grow in their knowledge and understanding of Christianity. We hope to develop in them a broader understanding of how religious faith can sustain them in difficult circumstances and that they can become active citizens in a diverse world.

**We help pupils to:**

- Reflect critically on the truth claims of Christian belief.
- See how Christianity is relevant today.
- Develop skill to interpret the Bible.
- Become active citizens, serving their neighbour.
- Understand how religious faith can sustain them in difficult circumstances.
- Engage in thoughtful dialogue with other faiths and traditions.

**As a church school we also aim to develop respect for other 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.
- reflect theologically and explore the ultimate questions and challenges of life in today's society;
- reflect critically on the truth claims of Christian belief;

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- 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.;

**As a Church of England school we also aim to 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 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.

**Spiritual, Moral and Social Development**

Spiritual development within RE in a Church school enriches and encourages the pupils' discovery of God the creator, of their 'inmost being' and of the wonder of the environment. 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.

**British Values**

All schools are required to promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of children. In addition to this, in line with the requirements set out by the Government's 2011 Prevent Strategy, schools are specifically required to actively promote fundamental British

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Values.

These values fall into the following broad areas:

- Democracy
- The Rule of Law
- Individual Liberty
- Mutual Respect
- Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

As a Church of England Primary School, the Christian ethos is at the heart of our school family and underpins all that we do. Our moral values and teaching are Gospel based and uphold the message of God's redeeming love. Whilst these are the principles of faith upon which our school and church stand, we actively promote respect and tolerance for our 'neighbours' of all faiths, races and cultures.

Our curriculum promotes not only the academic development of all our children, but also their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. This means we encourage our children to be unique, creative, independent individuals, respectful of themselves, their fellow children in school, those in our local community and beyond. We actively promote their development towards becoming caring, democratic, responsible and tolerant adults who will make positive contributions to our society and the wider world.

## **SEN**

We value all the children in our school equally and we recognise the entitlement of each child to receive the best possible education. Within a caring and mutually supportive environment we aim to:

- Build upon the strengths and achievements of the child
- Create an environment in which all individuals are valued, have respect for one another and grow in self-esteem.
- Give equal access to all aspects of school life through academic, social and practical experiences. This will allow all children to experience success regardless of SEN, disability or any other factor that may affect their attainment. This is insofar as it is reasonably practical and compatible with the child receiving their special educational provision and the effective education of their fellow pupils.
- Ensure that effective channels of communication are sustained so that all persons including parents and carers are aware of the pupil's progress and Special Educational Provision (SEP) made for them.
  - Assess children regularly so that those with SEN are identified as early as possible.
  - Enable pupils with special educational needs to make the greatest progress possible.
  - Work towards developing expertise in using inclusive teaching and learning strategies.

## **Legal Requirements**

The governing body provides religious education according to the Agreed Syllabus which is the 2014 Blackburn Diocese and District Syllabus. Parents may withdraw their children from RE if they wish, as described in the school brochure, as they may in any school.

Parents will be made aware that:

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

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community. Since the conduct of the school as a whole reflects the Church of England ethos, removal of pupils from Worship and or RE cannot insulate them from the religious life of the school. Any parent wishing to request a withdrawal from R.E. will be invited to discuss this with the Headteacher so that the reasons can be explored and an agreed provision is made.

## **Organisation**

Early Years Foundation Stage, Key stage 1 and 2

At St. James' Lanehead we follow the Diocesan syllabus, but organise the units into programs within the relevant key stages to enhance our topic based learning.

Faiths other than Christianity have a distinct place alongside the curriculum guidance which is indicated in the long term curriculum plan.

Opportunities to invite visitors into school to bring a personal approach to the curriculum are recognised as a valuable learning experience which can be used to add another dimension to the curriculum provision. The use of published resources, television programs, DVD and I.C.T. resources are also recommended to aid planning where appropriate.

## **Class Organisation/ Teaching Style**

The Diocesan Syllabus provides thorough guidance on planning creative and motivating lessons incorporating a variety of teaching approaches and methods. Written, drawn, oral styles through writing, singing, artwork, drama, reflection, participating in and preparing class assemblies or special assemblies to name a few. Each class has its own RE journal where photographs of drama work, displays and children's responses can be gathered to form assessments enabling children's understanding and learning.

## **Inclusion**

R.E. will be made available to all regardless of race, gender or disability. Pupils with a faith other than Christianity will be treated with respect and will be encouraged to feel included and valued within the specific R.E. curriculum. Each child's contribution will be valued and this ethos will be promoted for all pupils to adopt as they learn to accept and learn from each other. Within the Diocesan Syllabus there is provision for a wide range of abilities and clear guidance for progression. This ensures that all children can be catered for within the curriculum and can access this through the creative teaching style approach.

We are an inclusive school that holds a child's emotional and spiritual development as a priority. Therefore any child who has additional needs will be provided with any support required to help them access and learn from the RE curriculum.

## **Foundation Stage**

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The children in the foundation stage follow the program, but have in mind the learning intentions of the planning as advised for Early Years in the Diocesan Syllabus. Certain aspects such as belonging, baptism and studying other faiths form part of the Early Years provision. Essentially other aspects of RE are covered as a class unit so that the pupils can bond together as a class through their learning experience. The content specifically targets the Christian faith which is in line with the ethos of St. James' Lanehead School. This syllabus also covers aspects of the Early Years Curriculum through 'Knowledge and Understanding of the World' and 'Personal, Social and Emotional Development'. Further to this the curriculum at the foundation stage requires the children to learn about other cultures and beliefs where opportunities to look at other faiths and traditions arise.

### **Organisation in the Foundation Stage**

It is recognised that the foundation stage should teach R.E. as a specific subject area which might be distinct on the timetable. Where appropriate it may overlap and link in with other subject areas such as Personal, Social and Emotional Education and Knowledge and Understanding of the World. A creative and varied teaching approach will include the aspects of class organisation mentioned above.

### **Assessment**

This will be carried out by the class teacher in accordance with their planning and their learning objectives. Expectations should be high and based on the child's previous skills and development. The Ladder of Expectation contained within the Blackburn Diocese Syllabus is used to measure and track progress. Teacher assessments are carried out at the end of each term and submitted to the RE coordinator. The assessment will show which children are achieving in line with expectations, those who are exceeding it, and those who are working below the expected levels. A report on standards is written by the coordinator annually and sent to the governing body. Specific areas may be highlighted by the co-ordinator for compiling a compendium of work to show progression through the school. Photographs may be taken of work or special events as appropriate for a portfolio to show the breadth of study covered by the school as a whole.

### **Resources**

Resource books, videos, DVDs and posters for key stage 2 are kept in the R.E. cupboard in the lower key stage 2 departments and key stage 1 keep their books in their own department. There are also additional topic boxes of resources for Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Each financial year resources are updated from the R.E. budget. Resources aim to be bright, lively and current in line with recommended resources from the Diocese. Over the years resources have been prioritised to meet the most immediate needs to keep materials fresh and modern.

### **Role of the Co-Ordinator**

The co-ordinator is responsible for:

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- ❑ Maintaining a broad stock of resources and up to date materials through monitoring and ordering.
- ❑ Up-dating and monitoring the scheme of work through the school.
- ❑ Monitoring teachers planning to check on daily provision.
- ❑ Analysing assessment data and pupil work to keep a check on standards across the school.
- ❑ Evaluating strengths and weaknesses in R.E. provision and feeding targets for developments into the School Action Plan.
- ❑ Reporting to RE Governor and keeping him/her updated with regard to curriculum, assessment and developments with regard to the teaching of Religious Education at St James’.
- ❑ Attending local cluster meetings to monitor the accuracy of the school’s assessment and keep informed of local and national developments.

### **Cross-Curricular Links**

It is recognised that children learn best when their learning is connected and the school has adopted a themed approach to its long term planning of curriculum subjects. Although it is recognised that R.E. is a distinctive subject in itself there should be links made to other areas of the curriculum where appropriate. Specific links are made with P.S.H.C.E. and the SEAL project to enhance the cross curriculum provision where it is particularly appropriate for embedding the values of the school.

### **RE and ICT**

Where appropriate the use of ICT can inspire and motivate pupils to become more involved in their R.E., especially where it has an up to date and relevant approach. The use of CD Roms, DVDs and internet access to appropriate sites can be a useful addition teaching tool.

### **Collective Worship**

Collective worship at our school plays a significant part in developing the children’s spirituality and enriching their experience of RE. However, the RE syllabus and its classroom delivery are legally distinct from Denominational Collective Worship and they are managed separately.

Daily worship at St. James’ reinforces the R.E. curriculum with a mainly Christian emphasis. Worship throughout the week includes whole school collective worship, class worship, celebration assemblies and prayer and praise. This also provides opportunities for the staff to reflect on their own spiritual development.

Class worship is led by the class teacher and takes place in each classroom on a weekly timetable. The theme will follow up the topic which has been presented in collective worship and embeds the values for life at St. James’ Lanehead. Each classroom has its own class worship table and is resourced with Bibles, prayer books and other relevant RE resource books. This is a place for children to access during the day as an interactive extension of the worship theme. Each class also

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has a copy of the Lion Storyteller Bible with accompanying CD's and, as part of their daily reflection, all children listen to Bible stories as part of a daily reading activity.. Each class has its own RE journal which is open for children to add their own thoughts, prayers and other reflective material. This journal is also used as another way to record thoughts, reflections and comments of the children. There are also aids to prayer and reflection such as beads, ribbons, a candle and a cross. Visitors are also welcomed to take part in class worship and support the staff through visiting each class through the year.

### **Extra Curriculum and Community Links**

Wherever possible the school works alongside the church in providing opportunities for children at the school to develop links with local churches. The school has also developed linked with the Burnley Faith Centre and visits are made to the Faith Centre and visitors come into School to share with the children.

The school's evening carol service is held at the church at Christmas for parents and families to enjoy. Pupils and staff walk up to church for the leavers service at the end of the school year. St. James' church also has a Sunday school and confirmation classes which some of our children attend. During the summer term pupils and parents are invited to walk with the church in their annual walking day around the parish of Harle Syke. Children are also encouraged to support the Parish Christmas Fair once a year and bring prizes for the tombola stall.

Charity fund raising appeals are supported at harvest through the Bishop's Harvest Appeal and at Christmas the pupils send boxes to the Samaritan's Purse shoe box appeal. Sometimes individual pupils choose to support their own charities out of school, this receives recognition as part of our pupil's achievements in the weekly Good News assembly.