

**Altham
ST JAMES'
CE
PRIMARY
SCHOOL**

Policy Statement for Religious Education

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Policy for Religious Education

This document must be read in conjunction with our over-arching policy document.

Preface and Legal Requirements

Religious Education in Altham St. James' CE Primary School is governed by both the 1944 and 1988 Education Acts which require RE to be provided for all pupils, and is in accordance with the Trust Deed of the school. As an Aided School the governors have decided to adopt provision based on the Diocesan Syllabus, and adapted for use in a school of two classes teaching vertically grouped classes of three or four age groups. It is in accordance with the beliefs and traditions of The Church of England. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from RE and this provision and its limitations are indicated in the school brochure.

Religious Education (together with Collective Worship, through which various elements of RE will be delivered or supported) contributes to the Mission of the school as outlined in its Mission Statement.

Our Mission Statement

Living our lives as Jesus wants us to.

- **Always be the best you can be**
- **Respect the World and everyone in it**
- **Love, Forgive and Reconcile**

The Governors have decided that the proportion of Christian to Non-Christian Faith taught should be approximately 80% to 20% of the time available for RE, and that the other faiths studied should be Judaism and Islam.

In addition, to encourage respect based on accurate and sympathetic understanding of other faiths which is consistent with the schools loyalty to its Christian foundation.

Aims

Our aims are to enable children to:

- Have a sense of curiosity and excitement about the world and to encourage them to search for truth, meaning and purpose in life; and to have an opportunity to develop their own beliefs, values and attitudes in the beginning of their search for a faith by which to live. We aim to support this by providing a secure, caring and nurturing environment in the context of a Christian Community/Church School.
- Have a knowledge and understanding of Christianity as a living faith and become aware of the place and significance of Christianity, and other religions, in the contemporary world.
- Have an understanding of, and respect for, other major world faiths.
- See creation and the natural world as part of God's revelation of himself.
- Explore the nature of religious symbolism and language.
- Explore and go some way towards finding their own answers to "life questions" such as origin, suffering, evil, death, etc.
- Develop appropriate attitudes, and an appropriate body of knowledge.

We will aim at all times to value children's own beliefs (which may be other than Christian).

Organisation of RE within the school

The school has adapted the updated Diocesan Syllabus '**Understanding Christianity**' Text, **Impact & Connection**, to cover a two year cycle of topics in Key Stage One. Reception work will be on an annual basis to key into this. The school has adapted the Diocesan Syllabus to a four year cycle of topics in Key Stage Two. This has been in place since the summer term of 2018.

Children are assessed at the end of each unit, with a decision made with individual pupils, following book observations and marking, together with class contributions and discussions. In addition RE is assessed termly and the results recorded – 'Developing', 'Expected' or 'Greater Depth'.

School Organisation and Teaching Style

Teaching will generally be to groups of children defined by age. There will be a KS1 group following the 2- year KS1 element of the topic cycle. Into this will be incorporated work with Reception children.

There will be a KS2 group following the four year topic cycle, differentiated wherever plausible, into Lower and Upper KS2.

Mrs Patterson (HLTA) will teach this subject throughout the school.

Resources

The resourcing of RE falls in line with the resourcing of the rest of the curriculum. We will in addition aim to use the church, its clergy and congregation as an additional source of resources

Responsibility for Religious Education and Collective Worship.

Responsibility for implementing and monitoring this policy shall be borne by the RE subject Leader and the head teacher.

Complaints about RE

It is hoped that any complaint will be resolved informally with the Headteacher in consultation with the Governors and possibly advice from the diocese and LEA where appropriate. If the complaint is not satisfactorily resolved then formal procedures allow the matter to be adjudicated upon by a specially constituted sub-committee of the Diocesan Board of Education, acting on behalf of The Bishop of Blackburn.

Reviewed Summer 2019