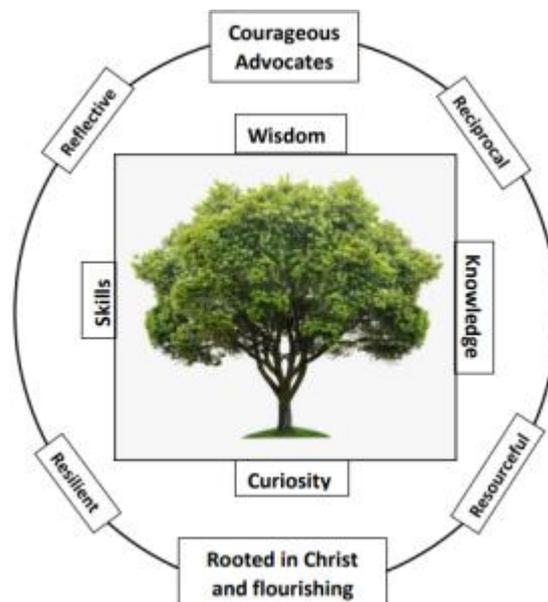




Religious Education Policy

'I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.' John 10:10



Our Vision Statement

Our Christian family leads and encourages everyone to:

- *Flourish; soar in faith and talents*
- *Serve others courageously*
- *Be excited and curious to learn*

We do this within our safe, happy, diverse and nurturing Christ centred environment ensuring 'all have life and have it to the full' John 10:10

We are God's children doing God's work.

Contents

Purpose	2
Philosophy.....	2
Aims	3
The Legal Position of Religious Education	3
Content of and time allocation for RE.....	3
Learning about Religion.....	4
Learning from Religion	4
Religious Education in Church Schools should help pupils to:	4
Therefore RE in Whittle le Woods CE Primary should also help pupils to:	5
The distinctive nature of RE at Whittle le Woods Ce Primary School offers:	5
Religious Education in Church Schools should enable:	6
Contribution RE makes to pupils' Spiritual, Moral Social and Cultural development.	6
Time Allocation	6
Planning.....	6
Assessment.....	7
Monitoring.....	7
Marking of the children's work.....	7
Inclusion	7
Parental Involvement.....	7
Links with other curriculum areas	8
Links with Local Churches.....	8
Parental Rights of Withdrawal in a Voluntary Aided School.	8
Review.....	9

Whittle le Woods CE Primary School

Church of England and Methodist Schools

Diocese of Blackburn and Lancashire Methodist District

Purpose

As a school we aim to prepare our children with the philosophical and theological skills necessary to achieve their potential within a multicultural world. These skills will be used throughout each child's life allowing each child from Whittle-le-Woods Primary School the opportunity flourish confidently, effectively and creatively in society. At Whittle-le-Woods CE Primary School, we recognise that pupils are entitled to a rigorous RE curriculum and sets out a framework within which teaching and non-teaching staff can operate and gives guidance on planning, teaching and assessment. RE is an integral part of the whole school curriculum offered to all pupils and is taught within a Christian context.

The policy should be read in conjunction with the Diocesan Syllabus for RE (2017) which sets out in detail what pupils in different classes and year groups will be taught.

The policy is intended for:

- All teaching staff
- All staff with classroom responsibilities
- School governors
- Parents
- Inspection teams

Philosophy

RE has the task of exploring the place and significance of religion in the contemporary world. The field of enquiry of RE includes the exploration of shared human experiences that give rise to ultimate questions in life and engage people throughout the world at the deepest level. It also involves introducing religion as a living experience and encouraging pupils to examine Christianity and other traditional belief systems and explore the beliefs, values and practices of people of religious faith. Through such a programme, RE will be supporting pupils in the formulation of their own beliefs, values and attitudes that they might better face life in a rapidly changing world.

At Whittle Le Woods CE Primary school the management of Religious Education is a distinctive role of the governors and headteacher. RE is in accordance with the Trust Deed and in accordance with 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

Aims

At Whittle-Le-Woods C of E Primary School, RE plays a major part in promoting the Christian aims, values and ethos of the school as expressed in the school's mission statement.

The Diocesan Syllabus contains the following aims:

- To explore shared human experience (i.e. those experiences which are valuable in that they raise fundamental questions about life)
- To develop pupils' own beliefs, values and attitudes.
- To learn about the place and significance of Christianity and other religions in the contemporary world including their traditions, beliefs and values.
- To experience Christianity as a living faith (within the context of a church school, with an emphasis on Anglican beliefs and practices as appropriate)

The Legal Position of Religious Education

Our school curriculum for Religious Education meets the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act (ERA). The ERA stipulates that Religious Education is compulsory for all children, including those in the reception class who are less than five years old. The ERA allows parents to withdraw their child from religious education classes if they so wish, although this should only be done once the parents have given written notice to the school governors. The Religious Education curriculum forms an important part of our school's spiritual, moral and social teaching. It also promotes education for citizenship. The RE syllabus should reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, and that it should, at the same time, take account of the teachings and practices of other major religions.

Content of and time allocation for RE

Religious Education in a Church School lies at the very heart of the curriculum

- Whittle Le Woods has adopted the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education Syllabus for RE which reflects the National Framework for RE, the National Society Statement of Entitlement and the requirements of SIAMS;
- At least 7% of overall curriculum time is devoted to RE;
- Christianity plays a central role in RE, taking up approximately 80% of the time available;
- Appropriate teaching about other faiths and world views is included.

It is essential that the Religious Education curriculum maintains a balanced approach of Learning about Religion (Attainment Target 1) and Learning from Religion (Attainment Target 2)

This can be expressed distinctively as:

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.

Religious Education in Church Schools should help pupils to:

- reflect theologically and explore the ultimate questions and challenges of life in today's society;
- reflect critically on the truth claims of Christian belief;
- 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.;

Children should be encouraged to foster a respect for the followers of the other world faiths. It is essential that this respect is based on an accurate and sympathetic understanding of those faiths.

Therefore RE in Whittle le Woods CE Primary should also 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.

The distinctive nature of RE at Whittle le Woods Ce Primary School offers:

- opportunities to explore the experience of the Church's year;
- visits to places of worship, especially the local parish Church and a Cathedral (Y6), to develop the understanding of the Church as a living community;
- welcoming visitors from the local parish to share their experience of Christian belief and life;
- liaison with the local parish to enable these visits and links to occur;
- skills to confidently use religious language to express knowledge and opinions;
- a well-used set of Bibles in language that can be understood by the learners and examples of Bibles and prayer books from a variety of contexts;
- the facility to listen to Christian 'psalms, hymns and spiritual songs' from a wide variety of traditions;

- access to Christian artefacts that are used with care, respect and confidence;
- a sacred space that can be used as a focus for prayer and silent reflection;

Religious Education in Church Schools should 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.

Contribution RE makes to pupils' Spiritual, Moral Social and Cultural development.

Spiritual development within RE in Whittle le Woods CE Primary 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.

Time Allocation

In a church school in which education is provided within a Christian context it may be difficult to isolate the RE taking place. However, RE is taught as a discrete subject area within the whole school curriculum plan and approximately 7% of curriculum time is devoted to RE.

Planning

All planning should involve progression developing the children's abilities through all aspects of RE during their time in school. The school follows the Diocesan syllabus (2017 but is being

updated 2022) which also includes links to Understanding Christianity which staff use when preparing medium and short term plans.

Assessment

Assessment is ongoing and relevant to the teacher's planning as well as recording pupil progress. Each teacher completes an assessment grid at the end of each unit of work to show which pupils are working within, below and above expected levels. Copies of these are kept by the co-ordinator and Headteacher as a means of monitoring standards.

Monitoring

In monitoring the quality of RE teaching and learning the RE subject leader will:

- Scrutinise plans to ensure full coverage of the RE curriculum requirements.
- Analyse children's work
- Observe RE teaching and learning in the classroom
- Hold discussions with teachers
- Hold discussions with children

Marking of the children's work

The children's work is marked by the class teacher in accordance with the whole school marking policy. Work is praised as often as possible and positive comments are included on work. Children's spiritual development is encouraged by challenging question prompts which children respond to.

Inclusion

Whittle-Le-Woods School is fully committed to the Inclusion agenda. RE for children with Special Educational Needs is adapted/modified by the class teacher to meet the particular needs of the children in their class, both for the less able children as well as the more able children. This is done entirely at the discretion of the class teacher depending upon the situation and activity being undertaken. RE is an area of the curriculum in which every child can make a valuable and unique contribution.

Parental Involvement

Parents are able to play a vital role in supporting the children in RE. They are encouraged to help in the classroom and in community projects.

Links with other curriculum areas

RE provides many opportunities for links with other curriculum areas, particularly Literacy, History, Geography, Creative and Performing Arts and PSHE. The school uses the 'What If' learning approach which encourages teachers to link what and how they teach to Christian values. Some of the elements of the RE curriculum are supported and reinforced through school worship. However, worship and RE are two distinct areas in their own rights.

Links with Local Churches

As a school we have very close links with St. John's Church. The church building is often used as a resource for the delivery of certain units within our RE curriculum. Mr Venables, the current incumbent, also works alongside class teachers in the delivery of parts of the RE curriculum

The school also has links with Whittle-Le-Woods Methodist Church and classes visit Blackburn Cathedral at certain Christian Festivals.

Parental Rights of Withdrawal in a Voluntary Aided School.

Parents may request the governing body to provide Religious Education for their children according to the Agreed Syllabus. This can only be requested when parents cannot, with reasonable convenience, arrange for their children to attend another school where Religious Education is provided according to the Agreed Syllabus. The governing body **should** make provision unless the circumstances make it unreasonable to do so.

Should the governing body be unable to make such arrangements for Religious Education to be delivered according to the Agreed Syllabus, the responsibility for doing so then falls on the Local Authority. The Local Authority may decide that such a request for separate Religious Education is unreasonable and the parental request then fails.

Parents may withdraw their children from Religious Education as they may in any school and this opportunity **must** be described in the school brochure. The Church of England Board of Education and the Methodist Church suggests an appropriate form of words might be:

'The Worship and Religious Education provided by the school is in accordance with the Church of England or Methodist Church 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 or Methodist Church 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 such a request for withdrawal is made, the Headteacher should explore the reasons for the request and seek to arrive at an accommodation. It may be that only some elements of Religious Education or Worship are objected to.

Review

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by Jacqueline Haughin. Changes to the policy will also be approved by all members of the teaching staff.