

POLICY

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY FOR VOLUNTARY AIDED SCHOOLS WITHIN QUEST

St. Peter's C. of E. Primary School, Hindley

'I will strengthen and help you' Isaiah 41:10

St. John's C. of E. Primary School, Hindley Green

'With God all things are possible,' Mark 10:27

St. John's C. of E. Primary School, Abram

'You are the light that gives light to the world.' Matthew 5:14



QUEST

November 2024

Review - November 2026

Policy For Religious Education

This policy was revised by staff during the Autumn Term 2024.

Aims and Philosophy

As Church of England schools it is important to define our distinctive Christian character. Religious Education (RE) in a church school should enable every child to flourish and to *live life in all its fullness, John10:10*. Our aim is to fulfil each child's potential to ensure an enriched life-enhancing Christian education from *Early Years to Employment*.

At QUEST, we recognise that spiritual development lies at the heart of the curriculum. All members of the school community should experience Christianity through the life of the school, as well as through the taught curriculum. Christianity is the majority study in QUEST church schools RE curriculum. The RE curriculum holds the understanding that the foundation of Christianity draws on the richness and diversity of Christian experience in the breadth of its Anglican and other denominational forms, and in the variety of worldwide forms. Church schools have a duty to foster an accurate and increasing understanding of world religions and world views. As a result, within the curriculum, pupils will gain greater insight into the world in which they are growing up. They will also be able to appreciate the faith of others and develop a deeper understanding of their own beliefs and practices. These outcomes must contribute to harmonious relationships within and between communities, promoting social inclusion and combating prejudice. RE also contributes to other areas of education and human experience and plays an important part of the wider programme of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and character education.

RE teaching at QUEST church schools follows the legal requirements of the Education Reform Act (1988), which places RE as part of the curriculum; a statutory subject which is an entitlement of all pupils. The school bases its RE provision on the Blackburn Dioceses Agreed Syllabus. In addition, the school uses the Understanding Christianity resource, materials from the National Society, and other appropriate units to enhance teaching and offer the extra dimension of its Church foundation. Religious education makes a unique contribution to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of children. The study of RE may be explicit, concerning the beliefs and practices of a particular faith, or implicit which is focused on a person's feelings emotions and responses.

In keeping with the overall school aims, in Religious Education we aim to:

- offer a full and positive presentation of living Christianity in an opportunity for encountering the Christian life in Anglican and other contexts, and to enable pupils to encounter Christianity as the religion that shaped British culture and heritage and influences the lives of millions of people today
- enable pupils to learn about other major religions, their impact on culture and politics, art and history, and on the lives of their adherents
- develop an understanding of religious faith as the search for and expression of truth, and so to consider important human questions, values and concerns.
- contribute to the development of pupils' own spiritual / philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own faith and beliefs

Assessment Recording and Reporting Achievement

Assessments will be made each term in accordance with the learning objectives identified in the RE scheme of work for each unit and reported to parents annually. Formative assessment is used to plan lessons which build on children's individual learning.

The outcomes for pupils at the end of KS2 are that they are able to:

- Compare and contrast the key beliefs and practices of the religions studied and show how they are connected to believers' lives
- Describe different aspects of belonging to a religion – symbol, story, festival, belief, faith in action, ritual, worship
- Express religious beliefs and ideas with the appropriate language, vocabulary and terminology and describe what they mean
- Ask questions sensitively about the lives of believers and suggest appropriate answers
- Reflect on the decisions people make – including believers – and suggest possible outcomes
- Compare their own experience and identity with others – including believers
- Reflect and empathise with the big questions of life, suggesting some answers / insights
- Be confident to explore their own spirituality and search for truth
- Value the religious journey of faith
- Develop pupils' ability to interpret and appreciate religious imagery and expression

Leadership: Quality Assurance Monitoring and Review

Religious Education is given equal status with other core subjects in staffing, responsibility and resourcing. The RE subject leader is responsible for monitoring the standards of the children's work and the quality of the teaching in RE. They are also responsible for supporting colleagues in the teaching of religious education, for being informed about current developments in the subject and for providing a strategic lead and direction for the subject in the school. RE moderation is planned throughout the academic year across QUEST primary schools.

Parent/Carer Involvement

Parents/Carers are an integral part of our church school family and are fully involved in the life of our schools. They are invited to our celebrations and support our focus on values through exemplification in everyday life. As an inclusive community, we also recognize that parents have the legal right to withdraw their child from religious education or collective worship on the grounds of conscience, without giving a reason. Parents wishing to exercise this right are asked to write to the headteacher who will then invite the parents into school to discuss their concerns, clarify the nature of the RE and worship provided by the school and set out the options open to the parents as set out in education law. However, the right of withdrawal does not extend to other areas of the curriculum when, as may happen on occasion, spontaneous questions on religious matters are raised by pupils or there are issues related to religion that arise in other subjects. Where a pupil is withdrawn from RE and do not take part in alternative religious education they will be supervised by an appropriate member of staff whilst doing work set by their parents which will seek to further their knowledge and understanding of their parents' beliefs and values.

This policy has been reviewed with due regard to the Equality Act 2010 during the Autumn Term 2024 and Trustees are aware of its contents.

Signed

M Doyle

CEO