 

**Religious Education Policy**

This policy is informed by the Christian values which are the basis for all of CDAT's work and any actions taken under this policy will reflect this.

‘Blessed are those who act justly, who always do what is right’

*Psalm 106:3*

**School/Academy Name: St Matthew’s C of E Primary School**

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| Date agreed by LGB | Review Date | Signed Chair of LGB |
|  | Spring 2026 |  |

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**Introduction**

**The spiritual and moral development of our children underpins all aspects of our school life.**

*For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful.*

*Psalm 139.13-14*

St Matthew’s is a Church of England Academy school; therefore, Religious Education must be taught in accordance with the Trust Deed and should reflect the rites, practices and beliefs of the Church of England. The governing body is responsible for the subject in the school. This is delegated to the Principal and the Religious Education subject leader on a daily basis.

Following the Diocese of Blackburn Guidelines for Religious Education, the majority of work in Religious Education will be based on the Christian faith with the introduction of the study of Judaism, Hinduism and Islam through all key stages. Links will be made to Christianity

Religious Education will be allocated not less than 5% of the timetable. Staff delivers a range of themes using planning units of work for each term in line with guidance from Chester Diocese.

The purpose of teaching Religious Education in our school is

* To show children that Christianity is about following the living God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit and is relevant to their daily lives.
* To help children to reflect upon themselves as whole people, experiencing life through body, mind and spirit.
* To help pupils understand the significance of religion and its contribution to their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

**The importance of Religious Education**

Religious Education provokes challenging questions about the ultimate meaning and the purpose of life, beliefs about God, the self and the nature of reality, issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human. Religious Education encourages pupils to learn from different religions, beliefs, values and traditions while exploring their own beliefs and questions of meaning.

As a church school, we are committed to providing a happy stimulating environment rooted in Christian values such as thankfulness and love. All are cared for and nurtured spiritually, morally, intellectually, physically, socially and emotionally. The all-round development of our children is seen as vital and is an intrinsic part of our school – its life, its curriculum, underpinning the whole ethos of St. Matthew’s.

**Withdrawals**

Parents have the right by law to withdraw their children from the RE curriculum. The school will take responsibility for the supervision of any withdrawn pupils with regards to health and safety. Any parents wishing to withdraw pupils from RE would be expected to discuss this with the Principal.

**Aims**

* To lay the foundations for and to foster the spiritual growth of children enabling them to make their own response to the spiritual dimensions of life.
* To help children explore religion in order to achieve knowledge and understanding, tolerance and respect of other Christian denominations and world religions – their beliefs, experiences, practices and life styles.
* To give children the opportunity for reflection about life and the religious questions which are raised by daily experience.
* To contribute to the children’s own beliefs and values.
* To show that Christianity is about following the living God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit and is relevant to their daily lives.
* To provide a course of RE within the framework of the Chester scheme, appropriate to the educational needs of our pupils at the different stages of their development.
* To assist and encourage experience of Christian life and worship.
* To learn something of and celebrate the religious experiences of others faiths.
* To develop their own beliefs, values and ideas in the light of their experiences.
* To foster children’s feelings of awe and wonder and delight
* To assist them in their exploration of the meaning of life
* To support them in developing their ability and confidence in making life choices and help them confront difficult and painful situations which they may encounter.
* To develop a sense of self-worth and to recognise that they are valued by God and in turn show care and respect for others

**Entitlement**

The children’s entitlement is based upon the National Curriculum and Questful RE- The Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education Religious Education Syllabus scheme.

Generally, RE will be taught either as a discrete subject although the approach may vary. E.g.: in Early Years or at Key Stage 1 it may be appropriate to integrate some areas of Religious Education programme into a general topic within a thematic approach. Also at Key Stage 2 with the introduction of the new curriculum, opportunities may arise in which staff may wish to take a cross-curricular approach to RE, incorporating it into a wider field of study. Where possible all children will learn from primary source material as well as through the use of IT, outside speakers, field trips. E.g.: places of worship, visiting theatre companies, visiting speakers.

**Role of the subject leader**

* To draw up an action plan for RE annually
* To help/support staff to implement the scheme of work
* To monitor long/medium term plans
* To monitor children’s work in line with the marking policy and the scheme of work
* To keep up to date with initiatives/developments
* To disseminate this as appropriate
* To ensure differentiation/implementation of the agreed syllabus
* To be responsible for the upkeep/storage /renewing/updating of resources
* To be aware of staff development needs and encourage professional development
* To monitor and evaluate teacher assessments

**Role of the Principal**

* To ensure the policy is being followed and updated where necessary
* To support staff and the subject leader

**Church links**

The named link person for St Matthew’s church teaching is Rev. Jeremy Beatty (temporary until 2023)

The school organises and leads several services in church:

* Harvest
* Christmas
* Easter
* Remembrance Day
* Year 6 Leavers

All parents are invited to join us in for these services.

* Year 5 attend a Pilgrim’s Day at Chester Cathedral annually.
* Year 6 attend a Leaver’s Service at Chester Cathedral annually.
* Year 6 take part in ‘Bubblegum Christmas’ and ‘Easter Unwrapped’
* Pupils are taught responses e.g. ‘The Lord be with you’ which are incorporated into our Collective Acts of Worship.
* St Matthew’s church team organise annually a ‘Pop-up Prayer’ event for Early Years children and their parents.
* Children use church as a valuable resource both for RE and various areas of the curriculum.

**Documentation**

The Principal and subject leader will ensure that the policy and scheme of work is in keeping with the statutory requirements according to the National Curriculum.

**Planning and Implementation**

RE is taught throughout the school. This is led by the class teacher but may be supported from time to time by clergy and visiting speakers.

RE may be taught in the ‘whole class’ setting but with flexibility to allow for discussion, questioning and reflection in small groups or 1-1 and may be included in a cross curricular approach. Visits to St Matthew’s church will be integrated into the appropriate areas of study in all key stages.

A variety of teaching approaches can be employed. These include:

* Teacher presentations, role play/drama and story telling
* Question/answer sessions, discussions and debates
* Individual/group work
* The use of photographs, art work, DVD and artefacts
* The use of ICT, DVD, the internet, CDs to research and communicate ideas and present work.
* The use of Poetry, Drama, Art, Dance to aid reflection.

Each teacher follows the Chester Diocesan scheme of work and /or Understanding Christianity which is monitored by the RE subject leader.

**Assessment, reporting and record keeping**

Assessment is based on end of Key Stage statements.

In order to show progress towards the end of key stage statements, the staff appreciate that assessment of progress in RE should be undertaken with sensitivity, based upon the teachers observations of the child in class or group discussions or recorded work.

Children’s work is evaluated and assessed at the end of each unit of work. These assessments will inform future planning, annual reports to parents and curriculum monitoring by the subject leader. Progress in RE is reported to the Principal and is monitored by Governors of the community & Academy Committee.

**Health & Safety in RE**

Safe activities should be planned for the children in keeping with the Health & Safety policy.

Risk Assessments are completed in line with LA and CDAT requirements for any visits.

**Equal Opportunities**

Children of all abilities should be given the opportunity to learn RE regardless of race, gender, religious or cultural background. The planning and implementation of RE should allow for children to develop/follow their own learning styles. Children who show special talent in this area of the curriculum will have their needs met through differentiated work/tasks.