



Hoole St. Michael Church of England Primary School

"Achieving excellence within the light of God"

Religious Education Policy

Member of staff responsible: R Lever

Date policy written: January 2024

Date to be reviewed: January 2027

Our Vision Statement:

Christ's love is in everything we do at Hoole St Michael. Our creative and high-reaching Church of England Primary School is safe, loving and supportive. We encourage the building of good relationships and friendship through respect, tolerance and understanding. Within our Christian family, where parents are our partners in all aspects of school life, we aim to inspire a love for learning within each and every child.

'I can do everything through Christ who strengthens me.' Philippians 4:13

RE in our Church School should be of the highest standard, always striving for excellence, reflecting the school's distinctive Christian character.

The management of RE is a distinctive role of the governors and headteacher. RE has to be in accordance with the Trust Deed and in accordance with the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England and Methodist Church. The Governing Body as a whole is responsible for determining the nature of Religious Education provided in its school.

We engage in daily acts of Collective worship, both as a whole school and in classes. Although Religious Education and Collective Worship naturally compliment and enrich one another, at Hoole they are managed separately. The school has strong links with St Michael's Church. The children visit St Michael's many times a year for different services, members of the church visit school for acts of worship and to help support RE lessons. We also invite members of church into school to support with other special events such as multi-faith week, spirituality days and prayer spaces.

Introduction to the Policy

Our commitment to the Christian principles of love, care and respect for others is the golden thread which runs through our school ethos. As a church school we believe that RE plays a vital role in the development of the whole child within the context of a Christian family, contributing towards their spiritual, moral and cultural awareness in terms of knowledge, skills and understanding.

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13

In our Church School, RE lies at the very heart of the curriculum ensuring:

- that Governors adopt the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education Syllabus for RE. At Hoole, we follow the Blackburn Diocese Questful R.E. scheme of work.
- that at least 5% of curriculum time is devoted to RE each week.
- that Christianity plays a central role in RE, taking up between two thirds and three quarters of the time available;
- that appropriate teaching about other faiths and world views is included.
- Religious Education supports children in reflecting upon, developing and affirming their own beliefs, values and attitudes, through an exploration of shared human experiences.
- Children experience Christianity as a living faith within the context of a church school and learn about the place and significance of Christianity and other religions in the contemporary world.

RE provides opportunities for children to:

- ◆ develop their knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other religions in Britain
- ◆ explore issues within and between faiths to help children respect different religions and traditions
- ◆ learn about religious and ethical teaching
- ◆ develop their sense of identity and belonging
- ◆ prepare them for life as citizens
- ◆ reflect on, and analyse, their own beliefs, values and practices.

The aims of Religious Education in our Church School are:

- To know about and understand Christianity as a diverse global living faith through the exploration of core beliefs using an approach that critically engages with biblical text.
- To gain knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews appreciating diversity, continuity and change within the religions and world-views being studied.
- To engage with challenging questions of meaning and purpose raised by human existence and experience.
- To recognise the concept of religion and its continuing influence on Britain's cultural heritage and in the lives of individuals and societies in different times, cultures and places.
- To explore their own religious, spiritual and philosophical ways living, believing and thinking.

RE Statement of Entitlement: The Church of England Education Office 2019

Appropriate to age at the end of their education in Church schools the expectations 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 all faiths and none.
- Reflect critically and responsibly on their own spiritual, philosophical and ethical convictions.

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

This can be expressed in more detail and distinctively as:

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.

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 our Church School should also help our pupils to:

- learn about all 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;
- 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 all 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.

Religious Education in our Church School 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 all 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.

RE at Hoole, is taught in a way that focus upon open enquiry and first-hand experiences wherever possible for both staff and children. Activities are challenging, engaging and relevant to the needs and abilities of all children. High standards are expected throughout. Activities include visits to places of worship and visitors from the local parish come to share their experience of Christian belief and life. Bibles with language appropriate to the ability and understanding of the children are used regularly. In each classroom, there is a reflection area which is a focus for prayer and silent reflection as well as a stimulus for thought and enquiry on the current RE topic. Each class also has an RE portfolio in which the teacher and children record their learning, thoughts and responses. Classes also have a worship journal (for class worship responses), spirituality journals and interactive worship areas where the children can reflect.

RE makes a significant contribution to pupils' Spiritual, Moral Social and Cultural development.

Spiritual development within RE in a Church School enriches and encourages the pupils' discovery of God the creator, of their 'innermost 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.

RE teaching also provides quality first teaching in terms of:

- resources;
- assessment and record keeping;
- SEND provision (see SEND policy).

RE and British Values

The Department for Education has reinforced the need "to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs." The Government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy, and these values have been reiterated more recently. At Cop Lane C.E. Primary School, we recognise the importance of teaching our pupils mutual respect and tolerance for those of different or of no faith, and the shared values of Christianity and other major world faiths. This is done through the Blackburn Diocese Board of Education's Questful RE Scheme.

The 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 will be described in the school brochure at the earliest opportunity.

‘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.’ (The Church of England Board of Education and the Methodist Church suggestion)

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.

Assessment, Monitoring and Review

The leadership and planning of the RE curriculum are the responsibility of the subject leader, who also supports colleagues in their teaching and monitors and keeps the, informed about current developments in RE. The subject leader attends local network meetings and courses offered by Blackburn Diocese to keep up to date with resources and curriculum development. The RE subject leader/ SLT will monitor the effectiveness of the RE curriculum by:

- Reviewing RE curriculum to ensure progression and coverage.
- Regularly monitoring pupil work including floor books and ensuring this is in line with the Questful RE Scheme
- Delivering training and support
- Identifying and ordering resources

Monitoring and Assessment

This policy was approved by the Governing Body on.....

Signed..... Date..... *(Chair of SEC)*

Signed..... Date:..... *(Headteacher)*

RE Coverage

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
RE Units	Early Years: I am Special Early Years: Harvest	Early Years: Friendship Early Years: Christmas	Early Years: Stories Jesus Told Early Years: Stories Jesus heard	Early Years: Prayer Early Years: Easter	Early Years: Special Places Early Years: Special People	Early Years: Special Times

Reception –

Year 1/ 2 –

Hoole St Michaels Year 1/2 Long Term Plan RE 2022/23

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
RE Units Cycle A	1.4 Jesus 6 hours	2.1 The Bible Multi-faith - Holy books 6 hours 2.2 Christmas 4 hours	1.8 Joseph 4 hours S4 Christian Worship	2.4 Easter Look at S1 Holy Week for additional learning. 6 hours	2.6 Ascension and Pentecost 4 hours	2.5 The Church Multi-faith - Holy buildings 10 hours (begin two hours of this in summer term 1)

Hoole St Michaels Year 1/2 Long Term Plan RE 2023/24

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
RE Units Cycle B	1.1 Harvest Multi-faith - Judaism Sukkot 4 hours 2.3 Jesus 6 hours	1.3 Christmas 5 hours	1.9 My World, Jesus' World 4 hours	1.5 Easter Look at S1 Holy Week for additional learning. 5 hours	1.7 Baptism Multi-faith - Islam, Hinduism and Sikhism 7 hours	1.2 Creation Multi-faith - Islam and Hinduism 5 hours

Year 3/4 –

Hoole St Michaels Year 3/4 Long Term Plan RE 2022/23

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
RE Units Cycle A	S2 - The Lord's Prayer 3 hours 3.6 - Harvest 5 hours	4.2- Christmas Exploring the Symbolism of light 6 hours	3.3 -Jesus the man who changed lives 6 Hours	Multi faith - 4.4 - Easter a story of betrayal and trust 5 Hours Look at S6 Easter Around the World for additional learning.	3.5 - Which rules should we follow 12 hours (6 + 6)	3.1 - Called by God 7 hours

Hoole St Michaels Year 3/4 Long Term Plan RE 2023/24

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
RE Units Cycle B	S7 Change the World 3 hours 4.1 David, God and the psalms 7 hours	3.2 Christmas: God with us 8 hours	4.3 Jesus son of God 7 Hours	3.4 Exploring the sadness and joy of Easter 6 Hours	4.5 Are all churches the same? 6 hours	4.6 What is a prayer 6 hours

Year 5/6-

Hoole St Michaels Year 5/6 Long Term Plan RE 2022/23

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
RE Units Cycle A	S10 Proverbs Opening the year with Golden Nuggets from God! 3 hours 6.1 Life as a Journey 10 hours (4 hours this half term and 2 hours next)	6.2 Christmas - How do Christians prepare for Christmas? Make Christingles Charity work Christian Aid Christmas Appeal 5 hours (+2 from Life as a Journey)	5.3 Jesus the Teacher 6 hours	6.4 Who is Jesus at Easter? 4 hours S6 Easter celebrations worldwide 3-4 hours	6.4 Ascension and Pentecost 4 hours	6.6 Ideas about God 8 hours

Hoole St Michaels Year 5/6 Long Term Plan RE 2023/24

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
RE Units Cycle B	5.1 How and why do Christians read the Bible? 11 hours	5.2 Christmas: The Gospels of Matthew and Luke 4 hours 5.7 Christmas around the world 4 hours	6.3 Why do Christians celebrate the Eucharist? 3 hours 6.3A Why is the Exodus such a significant event in Jewish and Christian history? 6 hours	5.4 Why do Christians believe that Easter is a celebration of victory? 5 hours	5.9 Pentecost - what happened next? 6 hours	5.6 Loss, Death and Christian hope 6 hours