

# RAINFORD CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL



*‘Learning and growing together to achieve our best in the Love of God’*

## Religious Education Policy

For approval by CDCS Committee: Summer 2017

To be reviewed on or before: Summer 2020

Signed..... Chair of CDCS

Signed..... Headteacher

Signed..... R.E and Worship Coordinator

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To be approved: March 2017  
Review period: annual

Reviewed by: Becky Leeming  
Status: Active

## **Mission Statement**

*‘Learning and growing together to achieve our best in the Love of God’*

## **School Aims**

In order to prepare today’s children for tomorrow’s challenges, Rainford CE Primary Schools aims to achieve the following:

- Every child will be encouraged to understand the meaning and significance of faith, experience God’s love and develop the spirituality to enable them to live out our Christian values of love, joy, peace, friendship, forgiveness, perseverance and justice
- Every child will achieve their full potential through being a highly motivated, resilient and independent learner who embraces new experiences, has confidence to tackle challenges and go onto develop a lifelong love of learning.
- Every child will value themselves as a unique individual with special qualities and strengths developing self-discipline and honesty; taking responsibility for their own actions and appreciating their ability to make a positive difference in the world.
- Every child will appreciate and respect others, celebrate differences between individuals and groups and respect and care for God’s creation and the environment.
- Every child will be encouraged to make healthy choices and appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle.

In order to do this, we will constantly reflect the Christian ethos of our school in our relationships with our children, their families, our staff, the church and the wider community.

## **Religious Education**

RE is key in fulfilling the purpose of a church school as described by the late Lord Runcie, Archbishop of Canterbury: 'to nourish those of the faith; encourage those of other faiths and challenge those who have no faith.' Inspired by this statement, the Liverpool Diocese sets out the following: "The principal aim of Religious Education is to affirm and nourish, encourage and challenge all students in their spiritual journey."

Within a strong Christian ethos (which emphasises respect and tolerance), Religious Education in school aims to nourish the spiritual development of every child. This will embrace the teachings of a Christian faith, but also learn about other faith traditions such as Judaism and Islam. Our desired outcome is that children are encouraged to show appreciation for their own and other faiths and develop a strong morale framework within Christian values.

### **Aims**

- recognise and respect those of all faiths in their search for God
- recognise areas of common belief and practice between different faiths and develop the British Values of mutual respect and tolerance
- 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
- recognise the common human quest for justice, peace, love and the integrity of creation.
- To think critically about their faith and be comfortable with questions and questioning.

As a Voluntary Controlled School, RE is provided in accordance with our Locally Agreed Syllabus for R.E. However in discussion with all parents and our Governing body we have now adopted the Blackburn Diocesan syllabus as we felt as a whole school that it reflected our distinctive Anglican character.

Although RE and Collective Worship naturally compliment and enrich one another, they are managed separately and our Collective Worship Policy is therefore contained in a separate document.

### **Time Allocation**

RE in a Church School lies at the very heart of the whole school curriculum and we therefore offer to allocate the following amounts of time for taught R.E:

#### **Foundation Stage**

In the foundation stage, the children have a bi-weekly visit to All Saints Parish church where they engage in a short worship time, have Bible stories and pray. R.E is also taught in class every week. The Early Year's syllabus for R.E focuses on the use of 'Chatterboxes' which open up key Christian concepts and stories that Jesus heard and told. All major Christian festivals are explored and the children celebrate these with services in All Saints Church with the rest of the school.

### Key stage 1

R.E is taught as an integral part of other curriculum subjects and as a separate subject. It is delivered by the class teacher for one hour a week. Through taught RE, children are encouraged and supported to recognise and recall key Christian concepts and stories, talk about their own experiences, describe and retell stories from the Bible and give them meaning. They should also be encouraged to ask and respond to questions recognise and talk about their own experiences.

Christianity is the main faith taught with an introduction to Judaism for one half term each year in Year 1 and again in Year 2.

In Key stage 2 Christianity is the main faith taught. Children should be taught to give reasons, make links, show understanding, engage with and respond to scripture and concepts and apply these to their own lives. Other faiths will cover 20% of the curriculum time.

In Lower Key Stage 2, the concepts taught in KS1 about **Judaism** are further developed. Children are introduced to Jewish beliefs about God, the Synagogue, Jewish family life, Shabbat and the 10 Commandments as well as other teachings, practices and meanings.

In Upper Key Stage 2, children further explore concepts, rituals and beliefs in Judaism including Bar Mitzvah, Pesach and Sukkot.

**Islam** is introduced and expanded on. The curriculum delivered on Islam looks at what Muslims believe and stories from the life of Muhammad. Beliefs about Allah are also covered. This is expanded upon in Year 6 to include work on the Qur'an, a look at Shahadah, Id-ul-Fitr and other practices and ways of life for the Muslim.

### **Christianity**

Eight Christian Concepts are explored:

- God
- Creation
- The fall
- People of God
- Incarnation
- Gospel
- Salvation
- Kingdom of God

## **Assessment**

Assessment procedures follow the school's Assessment Policy. Work is regularly marked using 'driver words' which look at key skills for different levels of ability and attainment. Work is assessed every term by the class teacher and an overall level is given to children. Book scrutinies are also undertaken each term by the RE coordinator along with the Vicar and Head teacher. Parents are informed about R.E coverage via the curriculum information on the school website. Overall progress is reported in the end of year reports.

## **Withdrawal**

Parents are entitled to withdraw their child from R.E. lessons. If that is the case, alternative provision will be made.

## **Equal Opportunities**

The teaching of RE counteracts the negative effects of stereotyping. It helps children to recognise that other people are different in various ways such as gender, race, age and disability and differences should be celebrated and valued. It will begin to give children an understanding of how they should treat other people and how they themselves can expect to be treated.

As an inclusive school, each child is enabled to access this part of the curriculum as far as possible.

## **Resources**

There are a variety of resources available in school which are kept in the Curriculum cupboard for R.E at the top of the junior corridor. Resources in school include a scheme of work for Christianity which each teacher holds in their classroom and schemes for Judaism and Islam which are in the resources cupboard. R.E online provides a range of interactive resources for classroom teaching as well as BBC virtual clips. Visits to a Synagogue or Mosque or speakers from these faiths can be booked and are encouraged. All visiting speakers must read and sign our Visiting Speaker's Protocol.

Written by Becky Leeming  
March 2017

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