



**Bishop David  
Sheppard**

**CE Primary School**

Following Jesus, together we succeed

# **RE Policy**

Date: September 2022

Renewal Date: September 2025

## Following Jesus, together we succeed

**This policy has been adopted with the approval of the Governing Body. It will be renewed on a regular basis. This policy reflects the ethos of the articles agreed at the U.N. convention on the Rights of the Child.**

### **Purpose**

This policy reflects the school values and philosophy in relation to the teaching and learning of Religious Education (R.E.). It sets out a framework within which teaching and non-teaching staff can operate and gives guidance on planning, teaching and assessment. This policy should be read in conjunction with the Liverpool Diocesan syllabus for R.E. which sets out in detail what children in each class/year group will be taught.

### **Audience**

This document is intended for all staff with classroom responsibilities, governors, L.A. inspectors, parents and inspection teams. Copies are provided for all staff.

### **R.E. as part of the whole school curriculum**

*“The drive for excellence and effectiveness in Church Schools is paramount, but not merely because the Government says so. The enabling of every child to fully flourish in their potential as a child of God, is a sign and expression of the Kingdom and is at the heart of the church’s distinctive mission.” (Chadwick 2012)*

At Bishop David Sheppard, R.E. plays a significant role in developing the Christian ethos of our school. R.E. is a core subject that is also evident through cross curricular links throughout the curriculum in preparing our children to take a full role in our multi-cultural British society, and to be aware of, and responsive to, the needs, aspirations and beliefs of others.

Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education believes that high quality Religious Education is the key to enabling every child to flourish (Questful RE, 2022). Quality RE has the potential, more than any other subject, to have the most powerful and lasting effect on the child’s heart and mind (Questful RE, 2002). Religious Education provides varied opportunities for spiritual development and personal reflection. It develops children’s knowledge and understanding of the nature of religion and belief; it provokes challenging questions about meaning and purpose, truth and values, identity and belonging. Religious Education prepares children for active citizenship in today’s diverse society. It enables them to develop sensitivity to, and respect for, others.

As a church school the standard of our Religious Education provision should be nothing less than brilliant and its impact should be visible in all areas of the curriculum and school life. Religious Education makes a significant contribution to the Christian ethos of the school and should therefore be considered as a priority when writing development plans and setting budgets, arranging timetables and staffing.

Taught within an environment where Christianity is witnessed and experienced in action, pupils will experience, explore and encounter a wide range of creative and challenging activities that will help them to discover the answers to ultimate questions such as:

- Who am I and what does it mean to be me?
- In what ways do/can I relate to others?
- How/where can I encounter God?
- How can I make a positive contribution to the world in which I live?
- What values, attitudes, beliefs and behaviours are important to me?
- What does it mean to have faith?
- Who/what influences and inspires me?

### **The aims of Religious Education in our school**

Religious Education is rooted in the message of the Gospel and the living faith of the school. However, it must be made clear that it is not the role of Religious Education to indoctrinate or evangelise. The aims of RE are:

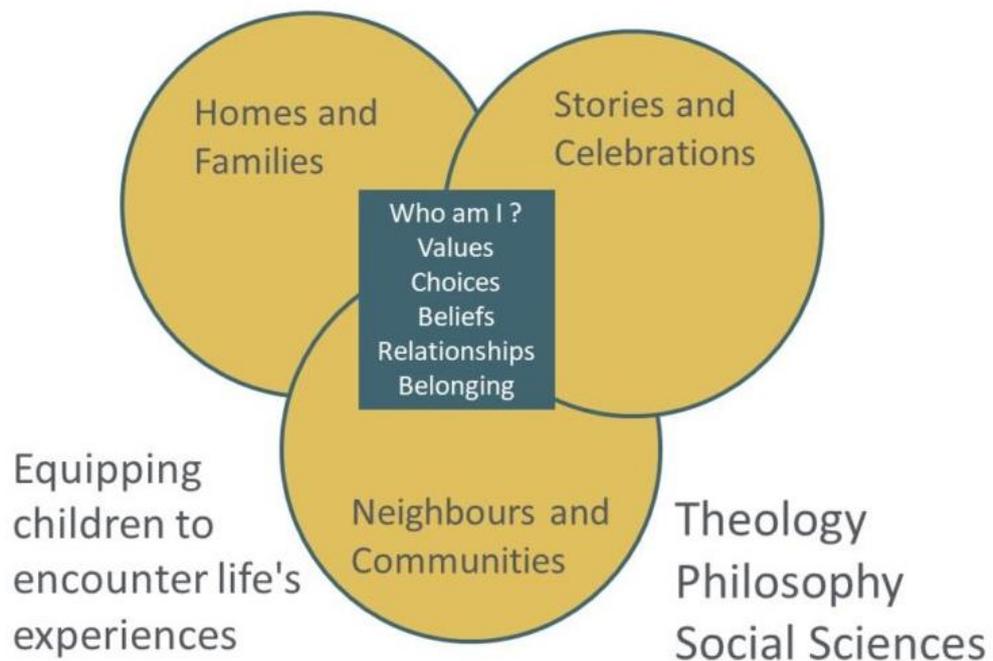
- To enable pupils to encounter Christianity as the religion that shapes British culture and heritage and influences the lives of millions of people today;
- To enable pupils to learn about the other major religions, their impact on culture and politics, art and history, and on the lives of their adherents;
- To develop understanding of a religious faith as the search for and expression of truth;
- To contribute to the development of pupil's own spiritual/philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own faith and beliefs
- The outcomes for pupils at the end of their education:
- Think theologically and explore ultimate questions;
- Reflect critically on the truth claims of both Christian belief and those of other faiths;
- Develop the skills to analyse, interpret and apply the Bible;
- Recognise that faith is a particular way of understanding and responding to God and the world;
- Analyse and explain the varied nature and traditions of the Christian community;
- Make a well informed response to Christianity;
- Respect those of all faiths in their search for God/Meaning.
- Reflect critically on all areas of shared belief and practice between different faiths;
- Enrich and expand their understanding of truth;

- Reflect critically and express their views on the human quest and destiny.

### Syllabus Content

At Bishop David Sheppard, we follow the Questful RE syllabus.

Questful RE is



The teaching of RE entails the teaching of both AT1 (learning about religion) and AT2 (learning from religion). The syllabus reflects the concept of a quest in which pupils are actively encouraged to ask questions about, and to discuss their faith and the faith of others in a respectful environment.

### Time Allocation

The Liverpool Diocese recommends approximately 5% of the total curriculum should be allocated to R.E. The majority of the time should be focused on Christianity (80%) the balance being allocated to other faiths. The school has allocated one session per week (5% of the total teaching time) for the teaching of R.E. although this may be increased by the class teacher if required or if appropriate. R.E. topics and themes may be explored in other areas of the curriculum.

### Planning

Long and Medium Term planning are provided in the Blackburn Diocese Syllabus, Questful RE, with suggested ideas for weekly activities. This ensures progression, continuity and subject coverage throughout the school. Planning is used to set clear achievable goals and ensure work is

matched to children's abilities. Planning is the responsibility of the class teacher with the guidance of the subject leader. Other lesson ideas are retrieved from Understanding Christianity- Text, Impact, Connections 2017.

### **World Faiths**

Throughout the year, world faiths are visited through our half termly focus assemblies where each class presents about a world faith and each year group then has a focus of study for that world faith. The school has a range of resources including literature and artefacts from a range of religions, namely Judaism, Hinduism, Islam, and Buddhism. Pupils will also have opportunities throughout the year to visit other places of worship and to speak to visitors to school about that faith.

### **Special Educational Needs**

Children with SEN are given full access to all areas of curriculum. They may have differentiated work and/or additional support from other adults in the classroom (see also SEND Policy).

### **Assessment**

Assessment begins at the planning stage, when teachers plan to teach from where they know children are currently. Both learning about religion and learning from religion are taught and assessed. Regular book monitoring ensures that challenge is evidenced through the teaching of RE.

Marking in the books reflects the Learning Objectives for RE rather than for other areas of the curriculum, although spelling of key religious words may be corrected.

End of unit assessment sheets are completed by each class teacher and copies filed by the subject leader.