



Learning Together

Mellor St Mary CE Primary School

R.E. Curriculum Statement 2021

Through our Christian Faith, we acknowledge our responsibility to all, to enrich lives and show love and respect within our school family.

We believe in lifelong learning aiming to equip our children to live life today and for tomorrow rooted in Christian love.

For nothing is impossible with God (Luke 1:37)

Mission:

Our school is the church on the hill; the light that brings Jesus into the lives of all in our community.

Upon this rock I will build my church (Matthew 16:18)

Intent:

Our R.E. curriculum has been designed with the intention of enabling every child to flourish. Good quality R.E. has the potential to have the most powerful and lasting effect on a child's heart and mind. It is a subject that combines academic skills with the development of character and spirit. R.E. provides opportunities for spiritual development and personal reflection. It provokes challenging questions about meaning and purpose, truth and values, identity and belonging.

R.E. prepares children for citizenship in today's diverse society. It enables children to develop sensitivity to and respect for others. It breaks down barriers and builds communities.

Our R.E. syllabus is a revision of "Questful R.E.", which builds on the 2007 and 2013 syllabi, bringing it in line with current best practices and teaching and learning strategies.

By focusing on the explicit teaching of Christian concepts and God's Big Salvation Story, it is hoped that the children will develop a deep understanding of Christianity.

A key feature of this syllabus is the large number of questions included in each unit. The purpose of these questions is to give the children

opportunities to investigate, reflect, evaluate and come to an understanding.

In our church school, this quest for understanding takes place within a living and active faith community, where questions about faith and belief are encouraged.

In addition, children need to have experience of a range of the major worldwide Christian denominations and other world faiths. We aim to give children hands-on, sensory experience of authentic Christianity and the other world faiths we study, principally Islam, Judaism and Hinduism.

It is not the place of R.E. to indoctrinate or evangelise. It is our intention that pupils will experience, explore and encounter a wide range of creative and challenging activities that will help them discover the answers to key 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 and beliefs and behaviour are important to me?
- What does it mean to have faith?
- Who/what influences and inspires me?

We aim that the impact of R.E. should be visible in all areas of the curriculum and school life. R.E. makes a significant contribution to the Christian ethos of the school and is prioritized in school development plans and when arranging timetables and staffing. We practise the belief that in our R.E. curriculum time, Christianity should occupy 80% and 20% will be devoted to non-Christian faith.

Understanding Christianity

Our Blackburn Diocesan Syllabus incorporates the approaches outlined by the Understanding Christianity organization. This approach introduces the notions of God, Creation, Fall of Man, People of God (Old Testament concepts) Incarnation, Gospel, Salvation and Kingdom of God (New Testament concepts.)

To introduce these aspects, our syllabus makes reference to the Big Frieze, which offers a pictorial interpretation of God's Big Story. The visual impression of the frieze helps the children in their understanding of this interpretation, for example, black and white are the only colours used in the

frieze at times when people are distant from God, and colour is used when people are in touch with God.

The Understanding Christianity approach emphasizes the three point stage in developing a full grasp of how religion affects people's lives: making sense, making connections and thereby understanding how Christianity affects people's choices as to how to live – the impact of Christianity on our lives. It is based on exploring text, discovering the impact and making the connection between Biblical events and life on Earth over time and in today's world. Children are encouraged to dive deeper, to identify the content of stories that helps to explain and answer questions about what Christians believe about Jesus and God.

Our school's virtues.

Our chosen virtues reflect our interpretation of the character and qualities of Mary the Mother of Jesus, after whom our school is named. These values are:





















Compassion, courage, kindness, joy, responsibility and love.

Creativity is encouraged through individual and collaborative learning experiences, a positive growth mind set, a sense of responsibility and challenges that take them beyond the classroom.

All children will be challenged to be inquisitive, compassionate, courageous and creative learners. They will have opportunities to influence their own learning through age appropriate and progressive themes and topics.

Effective learning characteristics including being ambitious, reflective and imaginative will drive teaching and learning in R.E.

Our core Christian curriculum drivers will support and enhance the teaching and learning of R.E. through encouraging our children to think about how people from diverse faiths live in our community and in the wider world, looking for similarities between world faiths and Christianity and engendering respect towards all people.

| Curriculum aims | Character Education | Lead Subjects |
|--|---|---|
| Develop their head and body <i>What they learn</i> |      | English, Maths, RE, PSHE/RHSE, Science, Computing and IT, History, Geography, Foreign Language, Art, Music, Design and Technology, PE |
| Develop their heart and character <i>Who they are</i> |      | RE, PHSE/RHSE, History, Art, Music, PE |
| Develop their actions and attitudes <i>How they live and learn</i> |      | English, Maths, Science (STEM), Computing, History, Geography, PSHE |
| Develop their moral compass <i>Where they fit in the world</i> |      | RE, PHSE/RHSE, Geography, Foreign Language, |

Early Years Pupils and KEY Stage 1 children will be encouraged to:

- Talk about God as creator of the world who loves us
- Know that God is three in one, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Be able to retell both the nativity and Easter stories
- Use religious words to talk about the celebrations of Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost
- Know that Christians believe Jesus is the Son of God who died on the cross and rose again
- Know that Jesus had 12 special friends called disciples
- Know that the Bible is our holy book and it contains God's big story, the salvation plan
- Be able to retell stories of Jesus' miracles
- Have visited a church and confidently talk about their experience and what they have learnt
- Have had opportunities to ask reflective questions that wonder about Christian practice, values and beliefs
- Be able to give examples of how Christians put their beliefs into action
- Know the names and significance of holy books from other faiths
- Know the places where people of other faiths worship

- Be developing a sense of their own values and the values of other
- Have experienced taking part in the celebration of Harvest Festival

By the end of Key Stage 2 children are expected to :

- Know that God is three on one, Father, Son and Holy Spirit – the Trinity
- Know that in the beginning God created everything and it was good. People spoil the environment and their relationship with God. This is known as the Fall
- Know that Christians believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Saviour who came to rescue all people and restore their relationship with God
- Know that Christians believe that Jesus is the Son of God who died on the cross, rose again and is alive with us today
- Know that Christians believe that Jesus will come again and Earth and Heaven will be transformed to be as God intended (the Kingdom of God)
- Christians try to put the teaching of Jesus into practice in their everyday lives and build God’s Kingdom on Earth as best they can
- Know that Pentecost was the start of the church
- Know that Christians believe that the Holy Spirit is at work in their lives today
- Know that Christianity is a worldwide multi-cultural faith
- Know that prayer is an important part of the life of believers and explain why
- Know the names and stories of at least 3 people in the past and present times who have been called by God to do his work and speak his word
- Describe the impact responding to God’s call has in a believer’s life
- Use developing religious vocabulary to talk about the impact religion has on believers’ lives
- Be able to make comparisons and identify the similarities and differences between the rules for living in Christianity and two other world faiths
- Ask important questions about religion and belief that improves their learning
- Experience a visit to a place of worship other than a church
- Talk knowledgeably about places of worship, the names and features of buildings and the worship that takes place there
- Retell in detail the stories of Christmas and Easter describing core Christian beliefs and concepts
- Connect Christian practices, values and beliefs to events and teaching in the Bible
- Be able to describe and show understanding of the links between the teachings in other Holy Books and the behaviour of believers

- Be able to express and explain their own opinions on issues they have discussed
- Use an increasingly wide religious vocabulary to talk about the meaning of rites of passage and pilgrimage experienced by believers as they journey through life
- Describe what they think motivates people of faith and explain what inspires and influences them personally
- Ask and suggest answers to questions that show their understanding of distinctive beliefs about God across three world religions
- Know and be able to talk about links between Christianity and Judaism
- Describe the similarities and differences within and between Christian denominations with particular reference to the Eucharist

Impact:

By the end of each key stage, therefore, pupils will know, apply and understand the knowledge, concepts and attitudes specified in the Statement of Entitlement for Religious Education, published by the Church of England Education Office.

Our children will have a confident set of questioning skills and knowledge supported by Christian values which can be used in education and life more generally. In short, they will learn more, remember more, enjoy more and develop more creatively, spiritually, socially and emotionally, thus enabling them to be ready for their next stage in education and life itself.