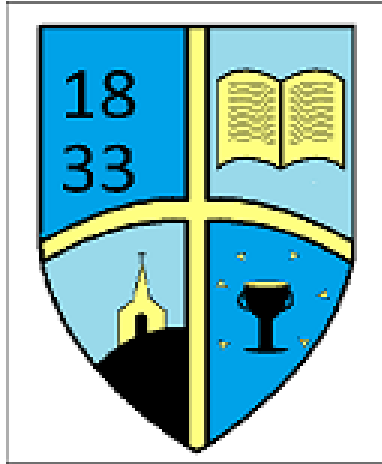


Mellor St Mary CE Primary School



*Believing, Learning
& Sharing Together*

Religious Education Policy

Date: October 2022

“Believing, Learning and Sharing Together .”

VISION STATEMENT

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 with
God nothing
shall be
impossible.

-Luke 1:37

For with God nothing shall be impossible (Luke 1:37)

At Mellor St Mary CE Primary School we believe that each and every one of us are special because we are made in the image of God and we must avoid at all cost diminishing the dignity of any individual to a stereo type or a problem. Knowing this is at the core of everything we do. It underpins our teaching and learning and prepares our pupils to be questioning yet confident, happy yet courageous, determined yet compassionate, strong yet forgiving and most importantly loving citizens of the future.

Our teaching and learning ethos is underpinned by the scripture ‘*For with God nothing shall be impossible*’ (Luke 1:37) and we believe that every child has the right to reach their full potential, no matter what their starting point in life may be. This policy has been created to ensure that all our pupils are able to reach their full potential by living life in all its fullness.

We believe in lifelong learning through Christ and in the idea that everyone can learn new things every day. Our teaching is not just centred around those things that can be measured, but all those that can't. We aim to challenge hearts, minds, bodies and souls through a carefully balanced skills, knowledge and experiential learning curriculum for all. We aim to equip our children with a moral compass which is necessary to enable them to make informed choices about the important things in their lives today and for tomorrow. We believe that at the heart of all we do is the core value of Love and this more than anything else helps our children to lead happy and rewarding lives.

In our school we try to be more like Christ by learning how He showed others how: to be **compassionate, courageous, kind, joyful, humble, responsible and love.**

Our Core Values

- At Mellor St Mary Church of England Primary School, we aim to provide a safe, happy Christian environment with a high quality of care to all of our members.
- The Christian faith and its teachings will be the basis for every aspect of life at our school. This school is distinguished by the support of its entire staff, for

its Christian foundation, promoting a sympathetic understanding of Christianity and other faiths.

- We actively 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.
- We will nurture the spiritual development of all members of the school community and promote mutual respect and responsibility.
- We will provide effective teaching of the National Curriculum, encouraging the highest achievement for each child.
- We will value the contribution each child makes to the life of the school and take account of individual's needs.
- This school has strong links with home and Parish Church, maintaining an effective balance between service to the Church and service to the community.
- At Mellor St Mary Church of England Primary School, we promote an ethos of excellence and endeavour for all, in a caring and Christian setting.

Recognising its historic foundation, Mellor St Mary CE Primary School will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the church at parish and diocesan level. The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian beliefs and practice. This school is distinguished by the support of its entire staff family, for its Christian foundation, promoting a sympathetic understanding of Christianity and other faiths. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.

The Importance of Religious Education to a Church School

Religious education and collective worship should be seen as part of an integrated experience, with collective worship acting as an expression of what is taught in many RE lessons. Pupils gain a religious education in its fullest sense in a Church school through good, well-planned and well-organized collective worship, through the example of Christian teachers, and through the quality of RE teaching.

- Religious Education provokes challenging questions about the ultimate meaning and purpose of life, beliefs about God, the self and the nature of reality, issues and understanding 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.
- Religious Education makes a distinctive contribution to pupils' learning by enabling them to reflect upon themselves as whole people, experiencing life through the body, the mind and the spirit.

The purpose of Religious Education is to help pupils understand the significance of religion and its contribution to their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Introduction

This document is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for the teaching and learning of Religious Education at Mellor St Mary CE Primary School. Our school has a Church of England foundation. We will promote Christian values within the school as exemplified by the life and teaching of Jesus Christ. We will recognise the children as individuals and educate them according to their rights in law, whilst providing opportunities for the children to fulfil their potential mentally, physically, socially, emotionally, aesthetically and spiritually.

Throughout Mellor St Mary CE Primary School, R.E. contributes to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the children. These aspects of development can be found in many of the school curriculum areas, and are implicit in the ethos of the school.

- **Spiritual development we will nurture and enrich the spiritual development of all members of the school family & encourages pupils' discovery of God the Creator & wonder of the world.**
- **Moral development based on the teachings of Jesus offer pupils a secure foundation stone.**
- **Social development enriches pupils' understanding of what it means to live in a Christian community where to love one another, respect and responsibility is put into practice.**
- **Cultural development provides opportunities to develop an understanding of Christianity worldwide & the impact on millions of people.**

R.E. will be of the highest standard, always striving for excellence reflecting the school's distinctive Christian character. We will value the contribution each child makes to the life of the school.

The management of RE is a distinct responsibility of the governors and Head Teacher. R.E. is taught according to the rites, practices, and doctrines of the Church of England Church. R.E. lies at the very heart of the curriculum and the Governors adopted the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education Syllabus (2022) which reflects the National framework for R.E., the Understanding Christianity materials, and is structured through the themes of God's Big Story. Appropriate teaching about other faiths is also important; respect for other faiths must be accurate and sympathetic, consistent with the School's loyalty to its caring, Christian foundation. Mellor St Mary CE Primary have chosen to incorporate Islam and Judaism into our other faith teaching.

Fundamentals

(a) Christian emphasis

In Mellor St Mary CE Voluntary Aided School, the Religious Education provided is in conformity with the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England as laid down in the Trust Deed.

(b) R.E. plays a major part in promoting the Christian aims, values and ethos of the school as expressed in the Mission Statement.

(c) The school works from and follows the R.E. Syllabus produced by the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education.

(d) Time allocation – approximately 5% of curriculum time (about 40minutes to an hour) should be devoted to R.E. per week.

(e) Christian Emphasis – According to Diocesan guidelines, approximately 70% of the Curriculum Time for Religious Education should have a Christian Emphasis.

(f) Other faiths - We will study Judaism and Islam in a way that is meaningful to each year group, during the other 30% of the time.

(g) Collective worship should always enhance and show respect for our Christian faith, in an appropriate manner. Visitors, including local vicars and church members can be called upon to share their faith with the children both in worship, and as part of class RE lessons. Staff in our school are also encouraged to share their personal faith, and Christian experiences with the children either as part of worship, but often more importantly as part of everyday communications with the children. Worship and Religious Education may be linked together in practice, but are legally distinct.

(h) The links with local Churches. We have extremely close links with St Mary's Church and our vicar, clergy team and other church members are all regular visitors to school, often joining us in class, or in celebration worship. We have also close links with Blackburn Cathedral.

The Aims of R.E.

- Think theologically & explore great questions about life, death, meaning & purpose
- Reflect critically on the truth claims of Christianity.
- See how the truth of Christianity is relevant today and face the challenge of Jesus' teaching in a pluralist & post-modern society.
- Develop skills to handle Bible text.
- Recognise faith as a commitment to a particular way of understanding God & the world.
- Respond in terms of beliefs, commitments and ways of living.
- Develop a sense of themselves as significant, unique & precious .
- Experience the breadth & variety of Christian Community.
- Engage in thoughtful dialogue with other faiths & traditions.
- Become active citizens serving their neighbour.
- Find a reason for hope in a troubled world.
- Understand how religious faith can sustain them in difficult circumstances & in the face of opposition.

Religious Education lessons at the school will primarily be concerned with three main areas, namely:

- Spiritual Development.
- Religious Literacy
- An understanding of Christianity, its principles and practice, within the context of the Anglican tradition.

These areas are taught through the Understanding Christianity perspective which identifies the following sequence of themes in the message contained in the Bible:

God – Creation – Fall – People of God – Incarnation – Gospel – Salvation – Kingdom of God.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES (2010 Equalities Act)

As with all other subjects in our curriculum, the school aims to give all children, regardless of gender, ethnic origin, social and cultural background, religion or disability, sexual orientation, equal access to all aspects of the curriculum and school life. The policy for Religious Education aims to ensure the provision of equal opportunities for all, stressing the entitlement of all children to a well-balanced, differentiated R.E. curriculum, with the exception of those pupils who are withdrawn from these activities by their parents on religious or moral grounds.

At Mellor St Mary CE Primary School we believe that each and every one of us are special because we are made in the image of God and we must avoid at all cost diminishing the dignity of any individual to a stereotype or a problem.

Our vision for teaching and learning ethos is underpinned by the scripture 'For with God nothing shall be impossible' (Luke 1:37) and we believe that every child has the right to reach their full potential, no matter what their starting point in life may be.

School Vision: 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.

This policy has been created to ensure that all our pupils are able to reach their full potential by living life in all its fullness.

At Mellor St Mary CE Primary school we recognise the principles and objectives that the DYCP (Directorate for Children and Young People) in Lancashire have agreed and fully support them.

Parental Rights of Withdrawal in a Voluntary Aided School

The Worship & Religious Education provided by the Mellor St Mary CE Primary School is in accordance with the Church of England Foundation. This foundation is also reflected in the curriculum and whole life of the community. Since the conduct of the school as a whole reflects the Church of England ethos, removal of pupils from Worship and/or Religious Education (as parents are legally entitled to do so) cannot insulate them from the religious life of the school. If a request for withdrawal is made, the Head Teacher should explore the reasons for the request and seek to arrive at an accommodation.

ORGANISATION OF THE SUBJECT

Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1

At Foundation Stage and Key Stage one R.E. should strive to build on young children's understanding of themselves and their experiences of family life and relationships as part of their knowledge and understanding of the world. All pupils

should learn that they are personally valued from the attitudes which they encounter in school. They should become increasingly aware of things which are special and important to themselves and other people.

The children will sometimes benefit from opportunities to develop their awareness of the local environment through journeys and visits, and by having a chance to experience awe and wonderment in the natural world. They should be introduced to symbolism in religion and hear stories about the lives of key figures. In Reception class, RE is an integral part of the topic work covered during the year. We relate the religious education aspects of the children's work to the objectives set out in the Early Learning Goals which underpin the curriculum planning for children aged three to five.

The EYFS/ KS1 usually work under the 'umbrella' of one main theme each half term. However R.E. will be taught as a discrete subject alongside a class-based topic. Advantages of cross-curricular links should always be taken where possible, as this can assist in contextualising topics and values/feelings, etc. for children, especially in KS1.

Key Stage 2

In Key Stage 2, the children should continue and build on the opportunities and experiences they have already encountered in Key Stage 1. They should be developing a deeper understanding of themselves and an awareness of the needs and feelings of other people from a variety of faiths and cultures.

They should be given an opportunity to interact with the natural world and the local environment. By the end of Key Stage 2, pupils should have been helped to explore a range of religious ideas, themes and big questions. They should have heard stories about the life and teaching of Jesus and other religious figures, and have been given opportunities to consider their own questions and concerns.

In KS2, the pupils will have one R.E. lesson each week, when the main subject from the Understanding Christianity / Blackburn Diocese Scheme of Work will be followed. Many other aspects of R.E. will evolve and be discussed in other areas of the curriculum.

TEACHING AND LEARNING STRATEGIES

As in all other areas of the curriculum, a variety of teaching and learning strategies will be used; we hope that all of these will provide good, imaginative lessons with an interesting and challenging variety of tasks. The use of St Mary's Church building and visits to other faith buildings, e.g. mosque and synagogue, can enrich learning in RE. The children will work in a variety of ways depending on the purpose of the work involved. They may work individually; they may undertake shared work as a group or in pairs; often they will work in a whole-class situation, where they will be encouraged to respect and appreciate the contribution made by others. Because of the wide variety of aspects covered in the teaching of R.E., there are many ways in which the work may be approached and consolidated. Sometimes a whole lesson may be given over to discussion and debate; at other times written work may be

appropriate. Active learning techniques are important in many aspects of this subject, artwork, role-play, dance, music, poetry, technology, may all be appropriate means of teaching and learning in R.E.

INCLUSIVE LEARNING and SEN PROVISION

We will endeavour to provide an inclusive approach to learning which treats pupils as individuals.

This will be provided through:

- The delivery of carefully structured teaching approaches
- Imaginative learning experiences which arouse and sustain children's interest, and which encourage a variety of responses.
- Provision of appropriate resources e.g. age and stage appropriate challenges for recording written work, or pictures to use as stimulus.
- Teacher's response and questioning.
- Adaptation of curriculum to enable all pupils to access the R.E curriculum according to need.

RESOURCES

Many resources for R.E. are found in the environment and in other areas of the curriculum within school. Each classroom has its own worship space and spiritual picture, posters, cards and resources We have appropriate topic related resources which are specific to R.E throughout school. These include artefacts relating to Judaism, Islam and different denominations of Christianity.

PARENTS AND OTHER ADULTS

As in all other areas of the curriculum, parents and other adults are welcome into the school and into the classes, to work alongside the children, or to talk to them about particular experiences – whether connected with their life or their faith. All adults are invited to our weekly celebration worship in school, and the Church Services which the children lead. The vicar and leaders of other local Churches come into school on a regular basis to take Collective Worship, and often to talk to the children in R.E. lessons.

PUPIL PROGRESS & ASSESSMENT

By using the syllabus provided by Blackburn Diocese, we hope that we will provide both continuity and progression for the children across all strands of R.E. and across both key stages. Although subjects such as Christmas and Easter may be visited many times during a child's time in school, each time a different approach will be used, and a slightly different area covered, so that progression can be seen in the quality and depth of learning. Evidence of the work done in R.E. will be found in the children's R.E. books, class scrapbooks, on wall displays, in collective worship, and in the way both children and adults treat and respect each other.

REVIEWING PROGRESS

Teachers will review individual children's progress informally during all lessons and more formally when looking at the evidence gathered over a term. Assessing and

reviewing is a continuous process which will influence the teacher's planning for whole class and individual children.

REPORTING TO PARENTS

In the first term of the academic year there is an opportunity for all parents to come into school to discuss the work being done by their child generally, or any problems they may be encountering. In the second term there is another Parents' Evening when we hope that all parents will come to school to see the work being done by their child, and to discuss progress. In the third term, in addition to a Parents' Evening, a written report is sent home outlining the child's efforts, achievements and progress made during the year. There is an opportunity for this report to be discussed with the teacher if the parent wishes to do so. There is a section on the report for RE.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

The staff in our school meet together regularly to review, discuss, adapt and plan the teaching and the curriculum within the school. R.E. is discussed in this way along with other subjects.

MONITORING

Monitoring of the effectiveness of this policy document will be carried out by the R.E. Subject leader team in order to ensure that the Policy and Scheme of Work for R.E. are being put into practice; to inform future planning; to check on continuity and progression; to gather information, and to ensure the maintenance of standards in R.E. throughout the school.

- Monitoring of planning
- Monitoring of Books
- Pupil questionnaires
- Joint observations with colleagues
- Learning walks

REVIEW AND DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY

This policy will be reviewed annually by the R.E. Subject leader team including the R.E. Governor, the Head teacher and Standards and Effectiveness Committee of the Governing Body, to ensure that:

- It is contributing to the achievement of high standards and progress in R.E. throughout the school.
- It complies with statutory requirements and any new legislation;
- Any necessary actions are included in the School Improvement Plan.

REVIEW Date: The policy will be reviewed every 3 years

Signed: *S. Marshall* (Subject Leader) Signed: *J. Embley-Peers* (Head teacher) Signed:

P. Skupski (Chair of Governors) Date: October 2022

Next review: October 2025