

# Policy for Religious Education



This policy has been reviewed by School Governors: 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026  
This policy will be reviewed: Every 3 years  
Vision: Have life and have it to the full, John 10:10

Our Vision is taken from John 10:10, "I have come so that you may live life to the full"  
Therefore, this is reflected in this policy through enabling all to flourish and develop a love of learning, a respect for others and a more informed view of the world.

## About the policy

At Dacre Braithwaite CE Primary School Religious Education is taught in accordance with the Diocese of Leeds syllabus and the Understanding Christianity resource pack and reflects the distinctive and inclusive ethos of our Anglican foundation. We continually aim to embed Christian Values at the heart of our school life. Religious Education forms part of the basic curriculum along with other core and foundation subjects. The purpose of Religious Education is to enable the children to learn about religions and to learn from religion.

The principal aim of RE is to enable pupils to hold balanced and informed conversations about religion and belief.

This principal aim incorporates the following aims of Religious Education in Church schools:

- To enable pupils to know about and understand Christianity as a living faith that influences the lives of people worldwide and as the religion that has most shaped British culture and heritage.
- To enable pupils to know and understand about other major world religions and non-religious worldviews, their impact on society, culture and the wider world, enabling pupils to express ideas and insights.
- To contribute to the development of pupils' own spiritual/philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own beliefs and values.

Appropriate to their age at the end of their education in Church schools, the expectation is 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 non-religious worldviews in their search for God and meaning.
- Engage in meaningful and informed dialogue with those of other faiths and none.
- Reflect critically and responsibly on their own spiritual, philosophical and ethical convictions.

## Religious Education and the Law

RE is for all pupils

- Every pupil has an entitlement to Religious Education.
- RE is a necessary part of a 'broad and balanced curriculum' and must be provided for all registered pupils in state-funded schools in England, including those in the sixth form, unless withdrawn by their parents (or withdrawing themselves if they are aged 18 or over).
- This requirement does not apply for children below compulsory school age (although there are many examples of good practice of RE in nursery classes).
- Special schools should ensure that every pupil receives RE 'as far as is practicable'.
- The 'basic' school curriculum includes the National Curriculum, RE and Relationships and Sex Education. In Church schools RE has the status of a core subject.
- Religious Education is also compulsory in academies and free schools, using the syllabus as set out in their funding agreements.

## Religious Education in our Distinct Context



In recognition of our distinctive context, Religious Education has a high profile, emphasising:

- The Christian foundation of the school
- A Christian ethos which permeates the whole curriculum yet has its own weight as a subject
- Christianity as a multi-world faith
- A close link with the local church family
- Allows pupils to engage seriously with and develop an understanding of the person and teachings of Jesus Christ
- A wide range of Christian resources, including artefacts

## Aims

Religious Education should help pupils to:

### **Make Sense of Beliefs**

Identifying and making sense of core religious and non-religious concepts and beliefs; understanding what these beliefs mean within their traditions; recognising how and why sources of authority are used, expressed and interpreted in different ways, and developing skills of interpretation.

### **Understand the Impact**

Examining how and why people put their beliefs into action in diverse ways, within their everyday lives, within their communities and in the wider world.

### **Make connections**

Reasoning about, reflecting on, evaluating and connecting the concepts, beliefs and practices studied; allowing pupils to challenge ideas and the ideas to challenge pupils' thinking; discerning possible connections between these ideas and pupils' own lives and ways of understanding the world.

The Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development lies at the heart of our curriculum; it takes place in the continuing Christian Values promoted by our School.

In Church of England schools the students and their families can expect a Religious Education curriculum that is rich and varied, enabling learners to acquire a thorough knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith: for example through the *Understanding Christianity* resource.

## Objectives

### **Making sense of the text**

Developing skills of reading and interpretation; understanding how Christians interpret, handle and use biblical texts; making sense of the meanings of texts for Christians.

### **Understanding the impact**

Examining ways in which Christians respond to biblical texts and teachings, and how they put their beliefs into action in diverse ways within the Christian community and in the world.

Developing skills of reading and interpretation; understanding how Christians interpret, handle and use biblical texts; making sense of the meanings of texts for Christians.

### **Making connections**

Evaluating, reflecting on and connecting the texts and concepts studied, and discerning possible connections between these and pupils' own lives and ways of understanding the world.

Elements are taken from *Understanding Christianity* © RE Today 2016.



## Learning and Teaching

The school curriculum aims to provide opportunities for all pupils to learn and achieve and to prepare all pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life. RE is planned in line with the Extended RE Curriculum and follows an enquiry based approach. Teachers follow the Diocesan syllabus and the Understanding Christianity resource pack. They spend time planning RE in order to ensure that pupils have a high quality, coherent and progressive experience of the subject. The teaching of Religious Education is organised as follows:

Foundation – Children may encounter a range of religious education related learning experiences and opportunities across all areas of learning.

KS1 & 2 – RE is organised either as weekly lessons, RE days/weeks depending on the area to be studied. There are also regular opportunities for visits/visitors to further enhance the children's learning and understanding.

In addition, there are Theme Days which may take the form of Advent and Easter.

For more information about how this subject is taught across the school, please refer to the Enhanced RE Curriculum Document, Long Term plans and the RE Curriculum Statement of intent.

## Reporting

A yearly individual report is compiled for each child and includes statements about effort and attainment in Religious Education. In addition, parents will be informed of any difficulties or achievements during the year.