

A Christian Family where all are valued, children achieve and the future begins

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RE SYLLABUS FOR CHURCH SCHOOLS

Church of England and Methodist Schools, Diocese of Blackburn

Leyland St. James' C. of E. Primary School Religious Education Policy

MISSION STATEMENT

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The Aims of our School are:

- To serve our children ensuring a just education system
- To learn about and live our Christian Faith
- To promote mutual respect and responsibility
- To promote spiritual, moral and social growth
- To understand the fast changing, diverse world in which we live
- To encourage intellectual and physical development
- And to wholeheartedly play our part, whether that part is to learn, to lead, to teach or to support others

MISSION STATEMENT FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

At Leyland St. James' C. of E. Primary School, the educational process is rooted in the living faith of the school. Religious Education has an important role in reflecting and conveying the distinctively Christian character of the school always aiming for the highest standard, always striving for excellence, reflecting the school's distinctive Christian character. Religious education is the vehicle for living the vision of our Church school and should aim to

- Ensure that the children are ASKING, INVESTIGATING and UNDERSTANDING
- Provoke religious thinking and give the children opportunity to reflect
- Enable the children to have informed conversations about religious beliefs and practices to connect, critically reflect upon, evaluate and apply their learning to their own growing understanding and respect of religion and belief (Christian and Non-Christian), of themselves, the world and human experience
- Widen understanding of Christianity as a living world faith
Develop understanding of Gospel values and how to live by these through words and actions at Leyland St. James' C. of E. Primary School

RE SYLLABUS FOR CHURCH SCHOOLS

In Voluntary Aided Schools the management of Religious Education is a distinctive role of the governors and head teacher. RE must be provided in accordance with the school's Trust Deed and in accordance with the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England. The Governing Body as a whole is responsible for determining the nature of Religious Education provided in its school. At Leyland St. James' C. of E. Primary School, Governors of a Voluntary Aided School adopt the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education Syllabus for RE which fulfils all legal requirements and the RE Statement of Entitlement from the Church of England Education Office 2016. The core Syllabus is 'Questful RE Creative and Challenging' revised 2017 and supported by the 'Understanding Christianity' resource.

Although Religious Education and Collective Worship naturally compliment and enrich one another they are managed separately. The RE policy should be read alongside the Worship policy.

Religious Education in a Church School lies at the very heart of the curriculum.

At Leyland St. James' C. of E. the pupils 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. We provide a wide range of opportunities for learners to understand and to make links between the beliefs, practices and value systems of the range of faiths and world views studied. We use an investigative, questioning approach that engages with, for example biblical text, and helps develop religious and theological literacy. There are strong links with the Christian values of the school and spiritual, moral, social and cultural development are intrinsic to the RE curriculum and should have a significant impact on learners. Based on RE Statement of Entitlement, "Christianity should be the majority study in RE in every school. In Church schools that should be clearly adhered to. In KS 1 – 3, at least 2/3rds of RE curriculum is to be Christianity. Sufficient dedicated curriculum time, meeting explicitly RE objectives, however organised, should be committed to the delivery of RE. This should aim to be close to 10% but must be no less than 5%." (RE Statement of Entitlement: The Church of England Education Office 2016). At Leyland St. James' C. of E. an average of one and a half hours per week of curriculum time will be devoted to the teaching of RE. This will include distinct syllabus lessons plus teaching related to the Christian Gospel values. As we adopt a creative approach to RE learning there will be cross curricular links with PSHE, Art, Drama and Music. Of this curricular time, 80% will be devoted to the Christian faith and 20% to Non-Christian Faiths. The aims of Religious Education in Church Schools are:

- 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 world views, 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 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 world views 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.

This can be expressed in more detail and distinctively as:

- We learn about God who reveals the truth about himself and humanity through creation, the giving of the law, his action in history and through the prophets;
- God who reveals himself ultimately in Jesus his Son, living among us and dying and rising for us;
- God who reveals himself in his Spirit working in the living faith of the Church experienced through scripture, tradition and reason.

We learn from:

- an empathetic response to the Christian faith and a critical engagement with it;
- responding personally to the stories and teachings of Jesus Christ;
- Examples of Christian living which give priority to the values of unconditional love, forgiveness, reconciliation, justice, compassion and faith.

Religious Education in Church Schools should also help pupils to:

- learn about other faiths, their beliefs, traditions and practices and from them through encounter and dialogue;
- recognise and respect those of all faiths in their search for God;
- recognise areas of common belief and practice between different faiths;
- 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.

Religious Education in Church Schools should help pupils to:

- reflect theologically and explore the ultimate questions and challenges of life in today's society;
- reflect critically on the truth claims of Christian belief;
- see how the truth of Christianity is relevant today;
- understand the challenge faced by Christians in today's pluralist and post-modern society;
- develop the skills to handle the Bible text;
- recognise that faith is based on commitment to a particular way of understanding God and the world;
- begin to develop their own commitments, beliefs and values;
- develop a sense of themselves as significant, unique and precious;
- experience the breadth and variety of the Christian community;
- engage in thoughtful dialogue with other faiths and traditions;
- become active citizens, serving their neighbour;
- find a reason for hope in a troubled world;
- understand how religious faith can sustain believers in difficult circumstances and in the face of opposition.

Religious Education in Church Schools should enable:

- pupils and teachers to talk openly and freely about their own personal beliefs and practice without fear of ridicule;

- pupils to make excellent and appropriate progress in their knowledge and understanding of Christianity;
- pupils from Christian families to talk openly about their beliefs and values in lessons and to grow in their faith;
- pupils from other faith backgrounds to understand and be encouraged in their faith;
- pupils with no religious background to be given an insight into what it means to be a person of faith;
- pupils of all backgrounds to have a safe place to explore the ultimate questions and challenges of life in today's society.

The teaching of RE, alongside the Worship themes, at Leyland St. James' C. of E. Primary School has a significant contribution to pupils' Spiritual, Moral Social and Cultural development. Teachers ensure the values taught in RE permeate throughout all other areas of the curriculum and are revisited in relation to learning, expectations of behaviours and relationships between all members of the school family.

SEND PROVISION AT LEYLAND ST. JAMES' C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

We will aim to ensure that the teaching of RE is accessible to all pupils and provide additional support through;

- Differentiated curriculum
- Appropriate resources
- Teaching assistant support \cap Small group support
- Appropriate teaching methods e.g. visual, auditory, kinaesthetic approaches

THE CONTRIBUTION OF RE TO CHRISTIAN AND BRITISH VALUES

At Leyland St. James' C. Of E. Primary School, the teaching of RE positively drives the promotion of the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

ASSESSMENT AND RECOD KEEPING

At Leyland St. James' C. Of E. Primary, Assessment and recording is in accordance with guidance given in the BDBE RE Syllabus. It is important that the children are provided with a variety of opportunities to record their work. Assessment and recording will include;

- Pupil discussion and questioning conversations
- Pupil discussion about their recorded work
- Verbal/ written feedback relevant to the RE learning objective
- Comments recorded in the Class RE Scrapbook about moral, spiritual and social development and learning from RE
- Verbal and written reports to parents
- Head teacher/ SLT work scrutiny
- Internal moderation of work
- Assessment using the ladder of expectation of achievement in RE
- Class and whole school displays
- Lesson observations

RESOURCES

The core syllabus of 'Questful RE Creative and Challenging' (revised 2017) will be supported with a wide range of resources which include;

- Understanding Christianity documents and access to the website
- Bible society website- supportive for staff knowledge
- Open doors website- 60 years of serving persecuted Christians
- Bibles Gateway- different versions of Bibles
- Lion Bible story teller books by Bob Hartman
- Godly play resources and stories
- A wide variety of Bibles
- Artefacts for Christian and Non-Christian Faiths
- Fruits and Shoots

This resources list is not exhaustive and will be developed further to meet the requirements of the syllabus.

PARENTAL RIGHTS OF WITHDRAWAL IN A VOLUNTARY AIDED SCHOOL.

The Worship and Religious Education provided by Leyland St. James' C. of E. primary School is in accordance with the Church of England or Methodist Church Foundation. This foundation is also reflected in the curriculum and the whole life of the school 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) cannot insulate them from the religious life of the school.'

If such a request for withdrawal is made, the Head teacher will explore the reasons for the request and seek to arrive at an accommodation. It may be that only some elements of Religious Education or Worship are objected to. Parents may request the governing board to provide Religious Education for their children according to the locally Agreed Syllabus. This can only be requested when parents cannot, with reasonable convenience, arrange for their children to attend another school where Religious Education is provided according to the locally Agreed Syllabus. The governing board should make provision unless the circumstances make it unreasonable to do so. Should the governing board be unable to make such arrangements for Religious Education to be delivered according to the Agreed Syllabus, the responsibility for doing so then falls on the Local Authority. The Local Authority may decide that such a request for separate Religious Education is unreasonable and the parental request then fails.

RE Co-ordinator: Sarah Croft

Head teacher: Lilian Taylor-Bell