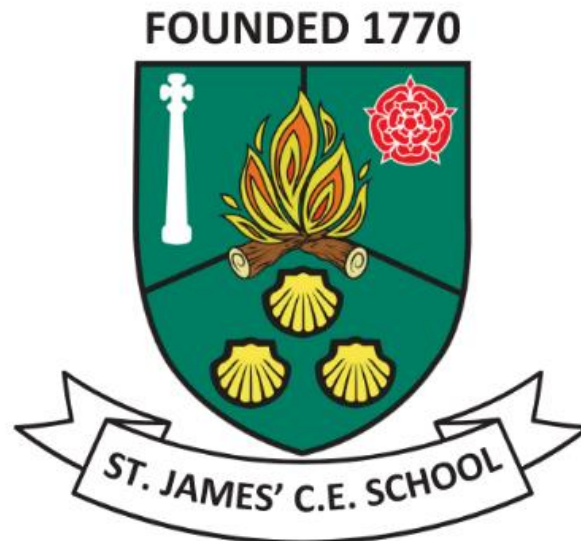


# Leyland St. James' CE Primary School



## RE Policy

Reviewed January 2025

Headteacher - Mr J Atherton

RE Lead - Mrs S Blundell

Religious Education in a Church School should be of the highest standard, always striving for excellence, reflecting the school's distinctive Christian character.

Religious Education at Leyland St James' CE Primary School has a profound effect on the social, moral, spiritual and cultural understanding of our pupils. Through regular and discrete lessons, children develop deeper appreciation for the Christian faith, the impact it has had on the world and its links with other faiths. Through our connection with the Church of England, children will learn the rites, practices and doctrines of the denomination creating a well-rounded and moral Christian character. The principal aim of our RE lessons is to enthuse children with an inquisitive approach helping them to understand and appreciate the beliefs, cultural practices and impact of the Christian church and all the religions of the world while encouraging each individual within the school to reflect on their own personal beliefs.

Leyland St James' CE Primary School is a Voluntary Aided school. Therefore, the management of Religious Education is a distinctive role of the governors and headteacher. 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 our school.

Leyland St James' CE Primary School has adopted 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 2019.

Although Religious Education and Collective Worship naturally compliment and enrich one another, they should be managed separately.

*"In a Church school the pupils and their families can expect an RE curriculum that enables pupils to acquire a rich, deep knowledge and understanding of Christian belief and practice, this should include the ways in which it is unique and diverse. Parents can expect the use of high-quality resources, for example, the Understanding Christianity resource. Pupils can expect that teaching and learning in Church schools will use an approach that engages with biblical text and theological ideas. Pupils can expect that a Church school RE curriculum will engage and challenge them through an exploration of core concepts and questions. They can expect Church schools to provide meaningful and informed dialogue with a range of religions and worldviews. There should be opportunities for them to understand the role of foundational texts, beliefs, rituals, and practices and how they help form identity in a range of religions and worldviews. Pupils should explore how these may change in different times, places and cultures. RE will go beyond a sociological study of religious phenomena and will introduce pupils to a range of relevant disciplines including theology, philosophy and the human and social sciences. In all Church schools progress in RE should be significant and attainment high enabling pupils to develop confident religious literacy."*

***RE Statement of Entitlement: The Church of England Education Office 2019***

**At Leyland St James' CE Primary School the aim of Religious Education is:**

- To know about and understand Christianity as a diverse global living faith through the exploration of core beliefs using an approach that critically engages with biblical text.
- To gain knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews appreciating diversity, continuity and change within the religions and worldviews being studied.
- To engage with challenging questions of meaning and purpose raised by human existence and experience.
- To recognise the concept of religion and its continuing influence on Britain's cultural heritage and in the lives of individuals and societies in different times, cultures and places.
- To explore their own religious, spiritual and philosophical ways living, believing and thinking.

*RE Statement of Entitlement: The Church of England Education Office 2019*

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 all faiths and none.
- Reflect critically and responsibly on their own spiritual, philosophical and ethical convictions.

*RE Statement of Entitlement: The Church of England Education Office 2016*

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 at Leyland St James CE Primary School should also help pupils to:**

- learn *about* all 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 at Leyland St James CE Primary School 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 all 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 at Leyland St James CE Primary School 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 all 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.

**At Leyland St James' CE Primary School, RE makes a significant contribution to pupils' Spiritual, Moral Social and Cultural Development**

### **RE and Inclusion**

We teach RE to all children, whatever their ability and individual needs. RE forms part of the school's curriculum policy to provide an ambitious, broad and balanced education to all children. Through our RE teaching, we provide learning opportunities that enable all pupils to make good progress. We strive hard to meet the needs of those pupils with special educational needs and those who are more able. We take all reasonable steps to achieve this. More information can be found in our SEND policy.

When progress falls significantly outside the expected range or exceeds significantly beyond the expected range, the child may have special educational needs. Our assessment process looks at a range of factors - classroom organisation, teaching materials, teaching style, adaptive teaching - so that we can take some additional or different action to enable the child to learn more effectively. This ensures that our teaching is matched to the child's needs.

### **Resources**

RE resources are managed by the subject leader.

These include:

- Bibles
- Biblical support material
- Godly play materials
- Posters
- Multimedia materials

Teachers are also encouraged to both make their own resources, pertinent to the topics they are teaching, and to look online for relevant resources using Questful RE. It is important to remember visitors/ visits can also make an effective contribution to RE and Worship programmes. At Leyland St James, we ensure a range of visitors/ visits to a range of places of worship to support our children's learning.

### **RE and British Values**

The Department for Education has reinforced the need "to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to 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."

The Government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy, and these values have been reiterated more recently.

At Leyland St James' CE Primary School, we recognise the importance of teaching our pupils mutual respect and tolerance for those of different or of no faith, and the shared values of Christianity and other major world faiths. This is done through the Blackburn Diocese Board of Education's Questful RE Scheme.

### **Assessment, Monitoring and Review**

The leadership and planning of the RE curriculum are the responsibility of the subject leader, who also supports colleagues in their teaching and monitors and keeps the, informed about current developments in RE. The subject leader attends local network meetings and courses offered by Blackburn Diocese to keep up to date with resources and curriculum development.

The RE subject leader/ SLT will monitor the effectiveness of the RE curriculum by:

- Reviewing RE curriculum to ensure progression and coverage.
- Regularly monitoring pupil work including floor books and ensuring this is in line with the Questful RE Scheme
- Delivering training and support
- Identifying and ordering resources

### **Right to withdraw**

Parents may legally withdraw their children from Religious Education. The worship and Religious Education provided by the school is in accordance with the Church of England 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 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 Headteacher should explore the reasons for the request and seek to arrive at an accommodation. It may be that only some elements of Religious Education are objected to.

### **RE Subject Leadership**

At Leyland St James' CE. Primary School the RE Subject leader is Mrs S Blundell.

Leyland St James' CE Primary School – RE Curriculum Overview

	Autumn		Spring		Summer	
<b>Reception</b>	I am Special Harvest Individual Liberty	Harvest Christmas	Special People Easter Mutual Respect	Easter Special People	Stories Jesus heard Special Places	Stories Jesus told
World faith link	Islam	Hinduism	Buddhism	Sikhism		
<b>Year 1</b>	Harvest – How can we help those who not have a good harvest?  Mutual Respect Tolerance	Creation – What are your favourite things that God created?  Christmas – Why do we give and receive gifts? Mutual Respect Tolerance	Jesus – What made Jesus special?	Easter – What do you think is the most important part of the story?  Mutual Respect	My World, Jesus' World – How is the place Jesus lived different to from we live now?	Baptism – Why is Baptism special?  Democracy
World Faith Link	Jewish Harvest Sukkot Islam	Hinduism Islam				Birth rites – Islam Hinduism
<b>Year 2</b>	The Bible - Why is the Bible such a special book? Christmas - Why was the birth of Jesus such good news? Rule of Law	Why do the people in the nativity story travel to Bethlehem	Jesus - Why did Jesus welcome everyone?	Easter - How do symbols help us to understand the Easter story?	The Church - Why is the church a special place for Christians?  Mutual Respect	Ascension and Pentecost - What happened at the Ascension and Pentecost?
World faith link						
<b>Year 3</b>	Harvest - How do people of faith say thank you to God for the harvest?	Christmas - How does the presence of Jesus impact on people's lives?	Called By God - What does it mean to called by God?  Mutual Respect	Easter- Is the cross a symbol of sadness or joy?	Rules for Living - Which rules should we follow?  Rule of Law	Jesus - How did/does Jesus change lives?
World Faith Link	The Hindu Harvest Festival – Pongal Jewish Harvest Sukkot Mutual Respect Tolerance				Rules in other faiths  Mutual Respect	
<b>Year 4</b>	God David and the Psalms	Christmas:exploring the symbolism of Light	How did Jesus show his power and authority?	Exploring Easter as a story of betrayal	Are all churches the same? Democracy	What is prayer?

World Faith Link		Jewish festival of light – Hannukah Mutual Respect Tolerance	Jewish Shabbat Mutual Respect Tolerance		Places of worship in other faiths Mutual Respect Tolerance	Similarities and differences in prayer life of people from different religions
<b>Year 5</b>	How and why do Christians read the Bible?	How do our celebrations reflect the true meaning of Christmas?	Why do Christians believe Jesus was a great teacher? Mutual Respect	Why do Christians believe that Easter is a celebration of victory?	Is death an ending or a beginning?	Daniel, did he make the right choice?
World Faith Link	Islam Judaism Hinduism Sikhism Mutual Respect Tolerance				Buddhism Hinduism Islam Mutual Respect Tolerance	Judaism Mutual Respect Tolerance
<b>Year 6</b>	Unit 6.1: Life as a Journey	Unit 6.2: Advent	Unit 6.3: The Eucharist Unit 6.3A: The Exodus	Unit 6.4: Jesus	Unit 6.5: Ascension	Unit 6.6: God
	Is every person's journey the same?	How do Christians prepare for Christmas?	Why do Christians celebrate the Eucharist?  Why is the Exodus such a significant event in Jewish and Christian history?	Who was Jesus? Who is Jesus?	What is the importance of Ascension and Pentecost to Christians?	What is the nature and character of God?
World Faith Link	Islam Hinduism Judaism Sikhism Mutual Respect Tolerance			Judaism – The Jewish festival of Passover is referred to throughout this unit  Mutual Respect Tolerance		Islam Hinduism  Mutual Respect Tolerance