

# Religious Education Policy

## Grange C of E Voluntary Controlled School



### School's Vision Statement

#### ***Achieve, Believe, Care***

***'Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works'***  
*Hebrews 10:24*

*Grange Church of England School is at the heart of our local community. Our Christian vision is rooted and grounded in values of love, hope and trust. It is an inclusive school and our belief is that everyone is unique, valued, loved and matters to God.*

*Our aim is to develop happy pupils with enquiring minds, respect for themselves, others and the world in which we live. All members of our school community are nurtured and encouraged to develop resilience and skills in order to flourish and enjoy 'life in all its fullness.' (John 10:10)*

**Approved by:**

**Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2021**

**Review date: September 2024**

## **Our vision for Religious Education (RE)**

At this school, RE expresses and strengthens our vision, ethos and values that are at the heart of what we aim to do in every aspect of school life that offers human flourishing for all. The importance placed on the development of the whole child spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected in the RE curriculum.

In Grange Church of England School where pupils and staff come from different faiths and none, RE is a highly valued academic subject that enables understanding of how religion and beliefs affect our lives. There is 'a commitment to generous hospitality, being true to our underpinning faith, but with a deep respect for the integrity of other religious traditions (and worldviews) and for the religious freedom of each person. (Statement of Entitlement 2019)

The school provides an RE curriculum that is rich and varied and studies a range of world religions and worldviews. At the heart of RE in this school is the teaching of Christianity, rooted in the person and work of Jesus Christ that enables learners to acquire a thorough knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith.

Our aim is to 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 studied. Links with the Christian vision and values of the school are intrinsic to our RE curriculum. We aim to provide suitable learning opportunities that match the needs of all children. This includes providing relevant support, differentiated activities and a range of teaching and learning styles within lessons.

Pupils are encouraged to know about, understand and respond to the ultimate questions of life and ethical issues. Our curriculum inspires pupils to explore, develop and affirm their own faith and values whilst having respect for the faith, beliefs and values of others. We are committed to education for wisdom, hope, community and dignity.

Encountering religion and belief includes:

- Enquiry into and investigation of the nature of religion
- Key beliefs and teachings, practices,
- Impact on the lives of believers and communities,
- Different ways of expressing beliefs, teachings and practices
- Developing pupil skills of interpretation, analysis and explanation in relation to religion
- Pupils' communication of their knowledge and understanding using specialist vocabulary.
- Pupils reflection on and response to their own experiences, questions of identity and belonging, meaning purpose and truth, values and commitment
- Development of religious literacy

## **Aims**

The aims of religious education **in this school** are:

1. To enable pupils 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.
2. To enable pupils to gain knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews appreciating diversity, continuity and change within the religions and worldviews being studied.
3. To facilitate pupils to engage with challenging questions of meaning and purpose raised by human existence and experience.
4. To enable pupils 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.
5. To encourage pupils to explore their own religious, spiritual and philosophical ways living, believing and thinking.

*National Society RE Statement of Entitlement 2019*

## **Legal Framework**

**As a voluntary controlled school, we legally have to adopt the Cumbria local authority agreed syllabus.**

Parents have a legal right in accordance with the Education act 1996 to withdraw their children from RE lessons. As this subject is central to the life and identity of Grange Church of England School, we ask parents to discuss with the head teacher any reasons they might have for doing this.

## **Teaching & Learning**

- We follow the Diocese of Carlisle units of work (Diocese of Blackburn scheme to be introduced during 2021/22) and ensure that we meet the required aspects to be covered within the Cumbria SACRE document.
- In addition, we supplement the teaching of R.E by using the Understanding Christianity resources and those from NATRE and REToday and Cumbria SACRE.
- There are clear learning outcomes for all units of work, based on the appropriate expectations as set out in the RE syllabus.
- RE has at least 5% of curriculum time i.e. 50 minutes per week in the foundation stage and key stage 1 increasing to 1 hour per week in key stage 2.
- Long term plans for RE ensure that there is continuity and progression for all pupils.
- Pupil progress and attainment in RE is tracked and recorded by class teachers and the R.E. subject leader who keeps an evidence folder. Progress in RE is included in each child's annual report to parents.

- Inclusion and differentiation for children with SEND and EAL are an integral part of RE planning and teaching
- RE is taught either as a discrete subject or as part of a cross- curricular approach where appropriate. Some themes or particular festivals are studied as block i.e. Easter or through a prayer space week or day.
- In EYFS religious education will be reflected in the areas of learning and overall the early learning goals (see Development Matters-Understanding the World). The pupils will have the opportunity to respond to significant experiences, show a range of feelings where appropriate, have a developing awareness of their own needs, views and feelings and be sensitive to the needs, views and feelings of others. Begin to know about their own cultures and beliefs and those of other people, including learning about festivals and religious celebrations. Have a developing respect for their own cultures and beliefs and those of other people, fostering an understanding of our culturally and socially diverse world.
- A range of visitors support the teaching of RE, and whenever possible, there will be planned visits to places of worship including our local Church and other Christian places of worship in the local area, the Buddhist Temple at Ulverston, plus a visitor from a Mosque or a visit to a Mosque and other places of worship such as a Hindu temple.
- In this school the faiths taught in RE are:
  - KS1 are Christianity and Islam
  - KS2 Christianity, Islam and Buddhism
- In Y3/4/5 and 6 R.E. is taught on a 3-year rolling programme due to the mixed age class structure. Teachers plan the units to ensure that progression of skills and understanding is ensured across the pupils' time in KS2.
- Other religions and worldviews may be taught implicitly or when comparing ideas or as thematic studies.
- Of the RE taught, 70% focusses on Christianity and 30% focusses on other faiths.
- Wherever possible, links are made between Religious Education and other curriculum subjects and also the learning and teaching about global issues.

### **Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development/ British Values**

- Religious Education is a key opportunity for children to develop morally, spiritually, socially and culturally. We invite children to reflect on their personal responses to issues, consider those of others, and appreciate that for some people belief in a spiritual dimension is important.
- We encourage children to consider the answers offered by faith groups to questions of meaning and purpose and problems within society as well as their own experiences
- Religious education also strongly supports the school's citizenship and global programme by introducing pupils to the significance of belonging to a community, the diversity of communities in the wider community, faith rules and their application to moral and ethical issues and cultural influences on religious practice. This includes work on British values (democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, respect and tolerance) and on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC).

## **Assessment & Achievement**

Appropriate to age, at the end of their education in our Church school the expectation is that all pupils are religiously literate and (as a minimum) they 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 worldviews in their search for God and meaning.
- Reflect critically and responsibly on their own spiritual, philosophical and ethical convictions
- Engage in meaningful and informed dialogue with those of other faiths and none.

*National Society RE Statement of Entitlement 2016*

Pupils are assessed in R.E. throughout school based on the expectations of the national curriculum and the Agreed Syllabus. Specific pieces or units of work are assessed formally and summative judgements made based on expected, working towards/emerging and greater depth/exceeding. Examples of these are collated by the subject leader. Children's progress in R.E. is commented formally upon in the annual report to parents.

## **Leadership & Management**

The teaching, assessing and resourcing of Religious Education is managed by the RE subject leader, (in close collaboration with senior leaders) to ensure that the principles set out in the National Society's Statement of Entitlement for RE are implemented. See appendix 1

### **The RE subject leader:**

- Will support and regularly monitor the subject across the school
- Have an annual budget to do this
- Ensure that relevant and regular CPD is in place to keep his/her subject knowledge and expertise up to date and that staff receive appropriate training for the teaching and assessment of RE.
- Report regularly to the governing body so that everyone has an overview about progress and attainment in RE.
- Ensure RE provision reflects diocesan advice and recommendations.

Inspection of RE as a Voluntary Controlled Church of England School will be under the SIAMS inspection schedule and will look at both:

- effectiveness in ensuring that pupils flourish through the provision of high quality religious education
- effectiveness in ensuring that the subject expresses the school's Christian vision

## **Review**

There will be a review every three years of this policy. Its effectiveness will be monitored by the RE leader, the current incumbent (where there is one assigned to the school) and governors. This will include discussions with other members of staff, observation of teaching and monitoring of children's work. Evaluation of teaching plans will form part of any review. The outcomes will influence the school development plan.

*This guidance takes into account current requirements for R.E. in the new SIAMs schedule from September 2018*