



# **Policy for Religious Education**

**2022/23**

Policy adopted in September 2022

Policy to be reviewed in 2024

## **Christian Vision**

**Belong, Believe, Achieve.** 'A place where everyone belongs to the family of Wavertree with faith in God at the centre. Where we believe in ourselves and others. Where we achieve our full potential. Where hope and love inspire all, we do.'

Philippians 4:13 'I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.'

## **Policy Statement**

### **BELONG**

In Wavertree Church of England School we believe that Religious Education is a vital part of each pupil's spiritual, cultural, moral and social development. Religious Education will engage pupils in a wide variety of learning experiences allowing them to make choices about their faith and understand its importance in building their future lives. Religious Education in this school is also concerned with demonstrating that every individual is respected whatever their faith and that we are all part of one community and one world, with the responsibilities that demands.

Wavertree Church of England School promotes itself to be an Anglican Christian school maintaining and enjoying close links with the local parish Church, Holy Trinity.

The 1998 Standards & Framework Act specifies the legal requirement to teach Religious Education to all pupils. This document lays down the foundation for the teaching of R.E. Wavertree Church of England School, according to the New Liverpool Diocese R.E. syllabus for primary schools.

## **Policy Aims**

The aims of this R.E. policy correlate to and support those laid out in the Whole School Aims, (copies of which are available in school.) are as follows:

- \* To develop the children's sense of identity and belonging, preparing them for life as citizens in society.
- \* To give children an understanding of Christianity, its principles and practice, within the context of the Anglican Tradition.
- \* To encourage children to reflect on, analyse and evaluate their beliefs, values and practices and the responsibilities that come with this.
- \* To be able to communicate their responses, making reasoned and informed judgments on moral issues.
- \* To develop tolerance and understanding of other faiths in our society.

By implementing this policy, the Whole School Aims will be achieved.

## **Content**

Wavertree C of E uses Questful R.E. to ensure that all children gain an understanding of Christianity as well as other world faiths. Questful RE (online) is the 5th revision of the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education Religious Education (RE) syllabus. It has been updated and redesigned to ensure that it is in line with current best practice and pedagogical strategies. Questful RE promotes the explicit teaching of Christian concepts and God's big salvation story, therefore the content of this syllabus gives pupils a deeper understanding of Christianity. Through an open investigative enquiry approach pupils are given the opportunity to explore major religions and world views. The large number of questions included in each unit is a key feature of the syllabus. As pupils explore these questions, they will discover more about themselves, their relationships with others, their relationship with the world around them and their relationship with God.

The topics covered in this scheme cover a wide range of biblical stories, characters, concepts and principals, both from the Old and New Testaments. Key festivals and dates in the Church calendar are addressed in each year group, such as Christmas and Easter, drawing on different concepts and characters' viewpoints to ensure progression of understanding.

By following the Liverpool Diocesan Syllabus, the minimum requirement to teach 20% other religions is addressed. The content of other faiths in this syllabus is related to the concepts addressed in the main Christian ideas of the unit, (for example, rites of passage, places of worship, prayer, etc.) Children will study the Christian application and then extend to understand how people of other faiths address this concept in their own religion. At least one other faith will be taught in each year group. The subject co-ordinator will monitor the planning and teaching of these to ensure misconceptions do not occur.

## **Organisation and Delivery**

### **BELIEVE**

The Dearing Report 1994 recommends that in Key Stage 1 a total of 36 hours and in KS2 a total of 45 hours should be devoted to R.E. Wavertree Church of England School devotes one hour of their weekly timetable to the teaching of R.E. Daily acts of Collective Worship constitute 15 minutes towards the spiritual development of pupils in our school.

The Governors of Wavertree Church of England School have agreed that all acts of Collective Worship must be wholly Christian and that the teaching of R.E. is in accordance with the new Liverpool Diocesan Syllabus. The Governors are in full support of the teaching of other faiths during R.E. lessons.

At Wavertree Church of England School, we teach R.E. both implicitly and explicitly. The Christian ethos of our school is one of caring and sharing, which permeates all we do. In covering the two attainment targets of learning about and from the Christian faith, the children will develop their capacity to use all their senses and be prompted to think, question, explore, experience, reflect, feel, wonder, enjoy, value and respond to the issues they face both in and out of school.

In order to make religious education a lively, active subject a variety of teaching methods are employed including: using ICT, stories, discussion, artefacts, art, visits, music and the use of periods of stillness and reflection. This is to ensure that all children have the opportunity to participate in R.E. regardless of age, ethnic and cultural origin, gender or physical and mental ability. Every provision is made so that all pupils of every ability SEN, Gifted & talented pupils included, can be involved in the learning process at their own level.

## **Cross Curricular links**

### **ACHIEVE**

The teaching of R.E. is an integral part of the wider curriculum. It provides scope for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the pupils at Wavertree Church of England School. Many skills are developed through R.E. that are essential for extending learning in other areas. Equally other subjects can generate a greater understanding for learning from and about religion. At Wavertree, we believe that R.E. is the core of the core and sets the foundations for all other subjects.

## **Co-ordination and monitoring**

The R.E. co-ordinator will keep abreast of new publications and developments within the subject and in the teaching of R.E. in both Foundation Stage and Key Stages 1 & 2, also attending any related training courses. The R.E. co-ordinator will monitor the planning and work being done on a regular basis. Reporting findings in written format or where appropriate in staff meetings.

The Head Teacher and staff will review this policy every three years. Any suggested amendments will be presented to the Governing Body at their first meeting following review. A cycle of monitoring, including book trawls, pupil interviews and WOW books, enables the coordinator to analyse coverage and standards of work.

### **Assessment and Reporting**

We assess children's knowledge and awareness of the subject on a regular basis by observing their interactions and relationships with others; by conferencing, questioning and listening to them and by assessing individual or group pieces of work. We are using assessment sheets at the end of every half term to inform the teacher and co-ordinator the progress and attainment made in Religious Education.

The Foundation stage children are assessed through Development Matters and the Foundation Stage e-profile.

### **Withdrawal**

At Wavertree Church of England School we wish to be an inclusive community but recognise that parents have the legal right to withdraw their child from R.E. if they wish. We would ask any parent considering this to contact the Head teacher to discuss any concerns or anxieties about the policy, provision and practice of Religious education at Wavertree Church of England School.