

# **Rishton Methodist Primary School**

## **Religious Education Policy 2023 - 24**



### **Our Christian Vision**

As a Methodist school, our values lie at the heart of all we are and do. Within our caring Christian community, where all are welcome, everyone is encouraged to be the best that they can possibly be. We promote respect, compassion and resilience to prepare our children for the challenges of an ever-changing world and encourage our whole school community to 'Rise up...take courage and do it" (Ezra 10:4).

Our Staff always strive for excellence, reflecting the school's distinctive Christian character. Whilst RE and Collective Worship complement and enrich one another, they are planned and managed separately. Religious Education plays a major part in promoting the Christian aims, values and ethos of our school as stated in our Christian vision.

As a Voluntary Controlled School, we are required to provide RE and we do so in accordance with the Lancashire SACRE Agreed Syllabus. However, as a Church School, the Programme of study for RE and the manner in which we plan and deliver our Collective Worship, enables us to maintain a distinctive approach. Our school recognises and values the religious backgrounds and non-religious backgrounds of each of our pupils. We intend to be sensitive to the home background of all and therefore work to ensure that RE is accessible to all pupils and teachers of any religious persuasion or none. We have a strong understanding of how RE can play a leading role in pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

**Religious Education in a Church School lies at the very heart of the curriculum and as such we follow the Diocesan recommendations:**

- that Governors have adopted the Lancashire SACRE Agreed Syllabus for RE which reflects the National Framework for RE, the National Society Statement of Entitlement and the requirements of SIAMS;
- that at least 5% of curriculum time is devoted to RE;
- that Christianity plays a central role in RE, taking up between two thirds and three quarters of the time available;
- that appropriate teaching about other faiths and world views is included.

**We believe it is essential that the Religious Education curriculum maintains a balanced approach of Learning about Religion and Learning from Religion.**

**Learning about Religion**

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.

**Learning from Religion**

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.

**At Rishton Methodist Primary School we agree that Religious Education 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.;

**It is entirely appropriate and necessary in today's world that children should be encouraged to foster a respect for the followers of other world faiths. It is essential that this respect is based on an accurate understanding of those faiths.**

**Therefore, RE in our school 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.

**The distinctive content of the Religious Education Curriculum in Rishton Methodist Primary School therefore promotes:**

- opportunities to explore the experience of the Church's year;
- study of the story of the local Christian community with its saints and martyrs;
- visits to places of worship;
- welcoming visitors from the local parish to share their experience of Christian belief and life;
- liaison with the local parish to enable these visits and links to occur;
- skills to confidently use religious language to express knowledge and opinions;
- a well-used set of Bibles in language that can be understood by the learners and examples of Bibles and prayer books from a variety of contexts;
- the facility to listen to Christian 'psalms, hymns and spiritual songs' from a wide variety of traditions;
- access to Christian artefacts that are used with care, respect and confidence;
- a sacred space that can be used as a focus for prayer and silent reflection;

**Religious Education in our school should therefore 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 significant contribution RE makes to pupils' Spiritual, Moral Social and Cultural development.**

Spiritual development within RE in a Church School enriches and encourages the pupils' discovery of God the creator, of their 'inmost being' and of the wonder of the environment. Moral development is based on the teachings of Jesus Christ, which offer pupils a secure foundation stone on which to make decisions and build their lives. Social development enriches pupils' understanding of what it means to live in a Christian community where Jesus' command to love one another is put into practice. Cultural development provides opportunities to develop an understanding of Christianity as a worldwide, multi-cultural faith that has an impact on the lives of millions of people.

**SEN/MA Provision**

Lessons are planned carefully to meet the needs of all children. Those with SEN are suitably supported via additional adult guidance or differentiation of task. AGT pupils are challenged in a similar way, by differentiation of task. Our teachers are asked to plan to document such provision. This is monitored by the Subject leader.

**Resources**

All resources for the delivery of quality RE are located in the lower KS2 corridor cupboards. Additional teacher materials are located in the teacher's room, to support with planning. Resources must be looked after, and any damage should be reported to the subject leader at the earliest opportunity.

Resources are kept up to date via a process of monitoring and evaluation of the delivery of the subject and the needs of the pupils and teachers.

**Assessment**

As a staff, led by the subject leader, RE assessment judgements will be updated on Target Tracker. The relevant statements are available under Religious Education. The staff will make judgements against each statement for each child. The children will be assessed as Working Towards, Working At or Working Above in RE. This will be updated at the end of each half term.

## **Legal Requirements**

### **Religious Education at Rishton Methodist will meet legal requirements by;**

- Its inclusion in the curriculum of all registered pupils. In primary school, this is a requirement for all pupils in Reception to Year 6.
- Reflecting the fact that religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, while taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religious traditions represented in Great Britain.
- Teaching RE in accordance with Lancashire SACRE.

## **Parental Rights of Withdrawal**

The Worship and Religious Education provided by Rishton Methodist School is in accordance with the Church of England and 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 or Methodist Church ethos, removal of pupils from Worship and/or Religious Education (as parents are legally entitled to do) will not 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.

Signature from Governors:	Date: 13 <sup>th</sup> May 2024
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Signature of Head teacher:	Date: 13 <sup>th</sup> May 2024
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Date of next review:	1 <sup>st</sup> September 2024
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