

# Religious Education Policy



*'Live, Laugh, Learn'*

## **St Cleopas Church of England Primary School**

### **Mission Statement:**

We are a distinctive, inclusive, Christian school, where everyone is welcomed and valued. We aim to nurture and develop opportunities for lifelong learning through a caring and inclusive ethos. We come together in a friendly, creative community to develop our cultural lives, spirituality and abilities through the core values of Love, Trust, Care, Respect and Joy all given and received in Jesus' name.

### **Biblical reference:**

**"..love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples".**

**John 13:34-35**

# **St Cleopas Church of England Primary School**

## **Collective Worship Policy**

### **Introduction**

The aim of Religious Education at St. Cleopas is to:

- give pupils an understanding of the Christian religion and significance of Jesus Christ within the context of The Anglican tradition.
- encourage a sense of belonging to a Christian community with subsequent expectations of compassion and respect for others.
- take into account the teaching and practices of other world faiths.
- promote the spiritual, moral and cultural development of the pupils so that they may be prepared for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

### **Curriculum**

In line with Liverpool Diocese agreed syllabus planning framework when teaching Religious Education at St. Cleopas we aim to enable pupils to acquire knowledge and understanding of religion, particularly as expressed in Christianity and other religious and non-religious groups represented in Great Britain while also developing the ability to reflect, respond thoughtfully and evaluate what they learn.

The Religious Education curriculum at St Cleopas is distinctive and unique.

It includes:

- opportunities to explore the experience of the Church's year
- study of the story of the local Christian communities
- visits to places of worship, especially the local parish churches of St Cleopas and the Cathedrals, to develop an understanding of the Church as a living community
- welcoming visitors from the local parishes to share their experience of Christian belief and life
- liaison with the local parishes to enable these visits and links to occur
- opportunities to learn about the Sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist
- support for the pupils; confident use of religious language
- sets of Bibles in language that can be understood by the learners and examples of prayer books from a variety of contexts
- the facility to listen to Christian hymns and spiritual songs from a wide variety of traditions
- access to Christian artefacts that are used with care, respect and confidence
- encouragement of mutual respect based on Christian values, where pupils and teachers are able 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 face the challenge of the Christian faith
- pupils of all backgrounds to have a safe place to explore the place of doubt and certainty in a maturing faith

## **Religious Education's contribution to Spiritual, Moral Social and Cultural Development**

Spiritual development within Religious Education at St Cleopas 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.

## **Assessment and Recording**

Teaching activities are planned in order to challenge pupils at the appropriate level. Children's learning about and learning from religion is assessed throughout the topics with relevant tasks set to enable them to achieve the objectives. Assessment, at the end of each topic, is recorded on the Topic Assessment sheets.

Three times a year (once per term) the teacher will give the class a specific assessment activity. The outcomes/levels achieved of these activities will be recorded on class lists and kept in R.E folders. Samples of work will also be kept. Regular moderation meetings will ensure levels are accurate.

Children's faith development is not assessed, rather the programme is directed towards spiritual growth and development which is, in itself, immeasurable.

## **Parental rights of Withdrawal from Religious Education**

The school is required by law to teach RE to all pupils registered at the school. The RE programme must reflect the fact that the religious traditions in this country are in the main Christian, while taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain. The RE programme must meet the requirements of the Liverpool Agreed Syllabus.

Parents may withdraw their children from Religious Education as they may in any school. We describe this opportunity as follows in the Prospectus:

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 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.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

To meet the rationale, purposes and guidelines of this policy we endeavour to ensure that all our pupils receive a range of well planned and progressive Religious Education lessons with opportunities for spiritual reflection and celebration. For the most part these are planned and delivered by the class teacher following the scheme of work. Responsibility for the co-ordination of Religious Education is given to a member of the school's teaching staff, Kate McDowell. She leads the process of planning, progression, assessment and recording and the promotion of staff development. Religious Education is discussed at regular meetings of the Performance and Standards Governor Committee.

**Policy Date:** February 2018

**Review Date:** February 2020