



Religious Education (RE) Policy

2025 – 2026

Approved by Governors	Date:
Due for Review	Date:

Our Vision Statement

We learn and grow best
together, with God, in a
family of all sorts of
people, surrounded by
encouragement and love.

We are 'growing in
wisdom' Luke 2:52

Tintwistle C.E. (A) Primary School

At Tintwistle, the deeply held Christian vision is shared and embraced by all members of the school community and profoundly influences everything that happens. The school powerfully lives out the vision creating a harmonious, vibrant and successful learning community. Strong, affirmative, positive relationships permeate the school contributing significantly to its loving, family feel. This clearly results in a school in which pupils and adults flourish. Being 'with God' and 'surrounded by encouragement and love' are key elements of the vision which are evident in all relationships. The school ensures that everyone is well known, embraced as members of the community and has their individual needs met.

(SIAMS Inspection, March 2022)

As a Church school, we hold our Christian Values at the heart of everything we do. These are:

- LOVE
- KINDNESS
- FRIENDSHIP
- FORGIVENESS
- PATIENCE
- RESILIENCE
- JOY
- RESPONSIBILITY
- HONESTY
- COURAGE
- PEACE
- RESPECT



It is very important to us that the children are happy and experience the best education possible. We value strong links and a close partnership between home, church and school and recognise the importance of trust and shared responsibility in education.

Our school works within the recommendations of The Equality Act 2012. Please read this policy alongside and with reference to the Equality, Disability and Community Cohesion Policy 2012.

THE IMPORTANCE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE)

Religious education in a Church school should enable every child to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10). It will help educate for dignity and respect, encouraging all to live well together. (Religious Education in Church of England Schools, A Statement of Entitlement 2019).

“The drive for excellence and effectiveness in Church Schools is paramount, but not merely because the Government says so. The enabling of every child to flourish in their potential as a child of God, is a sign and expression of the Kingdom and is at the heart of the church’s distinctive mission.” (*Chadwick 2012*)

The Diocesan Board of Education believe that the high quality Religious Education provided in our church schools is the key to enabling every child to flourish. Quality RE has the potential, more than any other subject, to have the most powerful and lasting effect on the child’s heart and mind. Religious Education provides opportunities for spiritual development and personal reflection. It develops children’s knowledge and understanding of the nature of religion and belief, it provokes challenging questions about meaning and purpose, truth and values, identity and belonging. Religious Education prepares children for citizenship in today’s diverse society. It enables them to develop sensitivity to and respect for others.

“ No other aspect of school life can ensure better than RE that school is experienced by staff and students alike not as a fact factory but as a laboratory for learning the values and virtues, attitudes and aptitudes which make for the wholeness of body, mind and spirit,”(*Saxbee 2013*)

Introduction

This document is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for the teaching and learning of Religious Education at Tintwistle C.E. (A) Primary School.

The spiritual and moral development of our children underpins all aspects of our school life.

Legal Requirements

Tintwistle is a Church of England Aided school; therefore Religious Education must be taught in accordance with the Trust Deed and should reflect the rites, practices and beliefs of the Church of England. The governing body is responsible for the subject in the school. This is delegated to the Headteacher and the Religious Education subject leader/coordinator on a daily basis. Currently the Headteacher is the RE co-ordinator.

Following the Diocese of Chester Guidelines for Religious Education, the majority of work in Religious Education will be based on the Christian faith with the introduction of other major world religions as set out in the scheme of work (2016). In the foundation stage topics such as 'Festivals' enable the children to explore other religions whilst building upon a Christian framework.

Religious Education will be allocated not less than 5% of the timetable. In Key Stage 1 this amounts to between 40-50 minutes per week totalling 36 hours over the year. In Key Stage 2 children should be taught Religious Education for 1 ¼ hours per week totalling 45 hours over the year. At Tintwistle school staff ensure coverage by block planning units of work for each term. We also hold at minimum of two RE days per year which may be linked with visits to URC or Christ Church. Our RE days are a key focus and the whole school enjoys engaging in joint activities which enhance our understanding of Christianity and sense of belonging. It is important to us that children enjoy RE lessons and find them both interesting and challenging.

Withdrawals

Parents have a right by law to withdraw their children from the Religious Education curriculum. In this event, the school will undertake responsibility for the supervision of withdrawn pupils with regard to health and safety, alternative work will be provided.

Aims

The purpose of teaching Religious Education in school is to:

- To show children that Christianity is about following the living God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit and is relevant to their daily lives.
- To extend children's ability to reflect upon themselves as whole people, experiencing life through body, mind and spirit.
- To help pupils understand the significance of religion and its contribution to their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Principles

We aim through our teaching

- To provide a course of Religious Education within the framework of the *Diocese of Chester Religious Education Guidelines* appropriate to the educational needs of the children in our school, at their different stages of development.
- To contribute to the spiritual, social and moral development of the school as a caring community and the pupils as individuals.
- To assist and encourage experience of Christian life and worship.
- Through study of major world religions to encourage and understanding and appreciation of the rich diversity of religious belief and practice in society today.

We aim to encourage children in our school

- To grow in awareness of others through learning activities involving sharing and co-operation and to develop trust and respect for others.
- To formulate their own sense of purpose in life and to embark upon a personal search for a faith by which to live.
- To learn something of the religious experiences of others.
- To develop their own beliefs, values and ideals in the light of their experiences
- To develop respect for other people, their beliefs and their life-styles.
- To develop an enquiring attitude towards religion and to explore activities of prayer and worship.

Entitlement

- The children's entitlement is based upon the diocesan scheme of work and this provides the basis for our planning and teaching. The diocesan syllabus is linked to, and supplemented by, *Understanding Christianity*.

Children will:

Learn about Religion

....to gain knowledge and understanding of the beliefs and practices of Christianity in particular and world religions in general.

Learn from Religion

...developing the capacity and skill to respond thoughtfully to and evaluate what they learn about religions.

- In the main, Religious Education will be taught as a discrete subject although the approach may vary. In the foundation stage the children mostly learn through topics, many of these are based around the events of the Christian year. There are also some topics in both key stages 1 and 2 which lend themselves to a more thematic approach to RE.
- Religious Education in school is organised using the diocesan scheme of work. This scheme is divided into Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1, Lower Key Stage 2 and Upper Key Stage 2. As we

have mixed age classes teachers have discretion to decide how to allocate their curriculum over the two years. Staff also meet to plan whole school RE days which are used to promote a sense of belonging to our Christian community as well as deepen the children's knowledge.

- Wherever possible all children will learn from primary source material as well as through the use of outside speakers with relevant experience and audio-visual aids. Visits to places of worship and whole school RE days also enhance the teaching of RE in school.

Implementation

- Religious Education will be taught throughout the school mainly by the class teacher and may be supported from time to time by clergy from local churches and visiting speakers.
- Religious Education may be taught in a 'whole class' setting but with flexibility to allow for discussion, questioning and reflection in small groups and individually.
- Visits to local churches such as URC and Christ Church.
- A variety of teaching approaches are encouraged:
 - ◇ Teacher presentations, role play and story telling.
 - ◇ Questions and answer sessions, discussions and debates.
 - ◇ Individual and group research.
 - ◇ Photographs, pictures and maps
 - ◇ I.C.T, television, video, Internet to research and communicate ideas.
- Mind Friendly strategies will support teaching and learning as appropriate.
- Progression will be guided by the Diocese of Chester Religious Education Scheme of Work (updated to Questful RE 2023)
- Religious Education may be integrated with other subjects as appropriate for example ICT, History and PSHE.
- Religious Education resources will be reviewed and updated regularly considering budgetary constraints.
- Classroom support will be welcomed under the guidance of the teacher, e.g. skilled individuals and parents etc.
- Developments in RE will be included in the School Improvement Plan, this will reflect budgetary constraints.

Special Educational Needs.

Children with special educational needs will work alongside the other children in their group, as in other curriculum areas, but differentiation in approach, language and expected outcome will be appropriate to the varying needs in the class. We aim to meet the full entitlement of every child in our school. To optimise inclusion the children's differing needs for learning (including children with special educational needs) will be addressed through differentiated activities. I.E.Ps and I.B.Ps may support children who are identified as having special educational needs. These will specify differentiated learning and assessment.

See separate SEN school policy

Equal Opportunities

Religious Education as an essential part of the curriculum should be relevant, worthwhile and accessible to all. It should express that all pupils are loved and valued by God as part of creation.

We aim to help the children in our school to respect themselves and to be sensitive to the needs of others.

Health and Safety

The Health and Safety policy and others relating to child protection and safeguarding are in the staff handbook which is kept in the staffroom.

Resources

Resources are stored on the high shelving in the classrooms and also in the stock cupboards. Boxes are clearly labelled and are regularly audited.

Planning, Assessment, Reporting and Record Keeping

- Under the Diocese of Chester Religious Education Guidelines the statutory position is that all pupils will be assessed based on the expected outcomes linked to the scheme of work.
- In order to show progress towards the expected outcomes the staff appreciate that assessment of progress in Religious Education should be undertaken with sensitivity, based upon the teacher's observations of the child in class or group discussions, activities or recorded work.
- Children's work is evaluated and assessments for each child are carried out at the end of each unit of term. These statements will inform future planning assessment; reporting to parents; and curriculum monitoring by the coordinator and the Headteacher.
- Records are kept by the class teacher who also keeps samples of work. Staff will share samples of work and discuss standards, progress and teaching strategies in staff meetings.
- Each class will keep a class RE book as well as individual pupil work (books or folders as appropriate).
- Summative reports to parents will be made at the end of the year.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- The Headteacher has overall responsibility for monitoring and evaluation.
- Governors will maintain an interest in Religious Education in the school.
- The coordinator will manage resources.
- The coordinator will endeavour to keep up to date with information, initiatives and developments in Religious Education and disseminate this as appropriate.
- The coordinator will be aware of staff development needs and encourage continuing professional development.
- The coordinator will facilitate the sharing of good practice.
- The coordinator will be responsible for identifying developments in Religious Education to be included in the SIP.

What is Questful RE?

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.

What is special about Questful RE?

Questful RE provokes challenging questions about meaning and purpose, truth and values, identity and belonging. Offering pupils authentic encounters with living faith communities Questful RE equips them with religious literacy and diversity dexterity.

The Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education believes that high-quality Religious Education (RE) is the key to enabling every child to flourish. We believe that quality RE has the potential, more than any other subject, to have the most powerful and lasting effect on the child's heart and mind. It is a subject that combines academic rigour with the development of the character and spirit of the child.

M Mulhall Headteacher (updated September 2025)