

**St Andrew's Church of England Infant School**  
**Religious Education Policy**

**Mission Statement of the school**

" Learning and Caring Together in Faith"

**Religious Education - Our Aims**

Religious Education at St Andrew's CE Infant School makes a distinctive and significant contribution to the ethos and spiritual dimension of school life and helps young children to develop their own beliefs, values and attitudes whilst learning to respect the beliefs and ways of life of other cultures and religions.

We are legally required to follow the Lancashire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education "Search for Meaning."

RE has a privileged position in the curriculum as it provides opportunities for every child to explore their personal quest for meaning by encouraging them to question, discuss and research "What is it to be human?" and explore answers offered by religions and beliefs.

We seek to support the children by ensuring RE enables them to:

- Be aware that human life is not merely material life, and to explore spiritual experiences in their own lives and the lives of others.
- Approach sensitively and respectfully the beliefs, actions and feelings of all people so that they can take a full part in building a more cohesive community where people of different religions and no religion can live together harmoniously
- Understand the relationships between the individual and the community in religious life.
  
- Develop appropriate ways of communicating their own thoughts, feelings and responses.
- Apply these insights to the development of their own beliefs, values and attitudes.
- Develop themselves personally and spiritually

**The RE Curriculum**

The RE curriculum maintains a balanced approach between:

**Learning about Religion** (AT 1) - living religious traditions and beliefs and values.

**Learning from religion** (AT 2) - shared human experience and the search for personal meaning.

**Lancashire Field of Enquiry**

The Lancashire Field of Enquiry for RE lies at the heart of RE teaching with its central question "What does it mean to be human?" By engaging the children in this line of enquiry they can then explore answers through four areas:

1. **Shared Human Experience (We)** - the nature of being human.
2. **Living Religious Tradition** - principal religious traditions encountered in world faiths.
3. **Beliefs and Values** - the beliefs and values that lie at the heart of the ways of life and religious practices of the faiths studied.
4. **The Search for Personal Meaning (I)** - the exploration of the sense of personal meaning for every child.

Each of the four elements should be explored in every RE investigation in order that the Field of enquiry is secure.

**As a Christian Church school we also include the following distinctive content in the RE curriculum:**

- Opportunities to explore the experiences of the Christian Church calendar
- Visits to places of worship, especially the local parish church, St Andrews on a regular basis to enhance the children's learning and to St Mary's R.C Church where we participate in the Leyland Schools annual carol service.
- We welcome visitors from the local parish to share their experience of Christian belief and faith. The Church has representatives on the Governing body and the school Church workers support with RE and collective worship.
- Daily prayer time, before lunch and at the end of the day ( in addition to prayer at our daily morning collective worship)
- 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.

### **Assessment and Reporting**

Children are assessed and monitored in RE using the Lancashire 8 Level Scale. There is a portfolio of work available to support teachers when assessing RE. Our end of Key Stage One results are forwarded to SACRE in the Summer Term. We summarise children's progress in RE on our annual end of year reports to Parents.

### **RE and SMSC**

RE makes a significant contribution to our children's` Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development. It promotes SMSC development through the exploration of core British values, the Christian Faith and other world faiths. The core British Values are:

- democracy.
- the rule of law.
- individual liberty.
- mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith.

### **SEN / GTA Provision**

All pupils of all abilities are catered for. As with all subjects, a wide variety of approaches is used to create accessible, differentiated and challenging RE.

### **Resources**

A range of resources are available to support teachers, planning and lessons. These are located in the Community Room. Some ICT resources are stored on the hall laptop. Visits to places of worship and visitors to the school are also used in teaching RE. Resources are updated by the RE Leader.

### **RE and Collective worship**

Although RE and Collective worship naturally complement and enrich one another, they are managed separately. Collective worship is not counted in the allocated 5% RE time.

### **Withdrawal from RE**

St Andrew`s teaches open minded religious education, and is inclusive: all children develop their own beliefs and values through RE. Any parent considering exercising the right of withdrawal and removing their child from the subject is invited to make an appointment with the Head Teacher to discuss the approach we take to RE.