

RE Policy

VISION

One family, belonging, believing and learning together”.

‘So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others’
Romans 12:5

We **belong** to a school that children and staff feel proud to be part of; where there is mutual support amongst families and the wider community, and where everyone feels valued.

We **believe** that God’s love is central to all that we do; that with His love, we grow in faith. We love and respect one another and we take care of the world in which we live.

We **learn** together in an inspiring and secure environment, where our children’s unique skills and abilities are recognised and nurtured, preparing them for life’s challenges and opportunities.

RE curriculum Bible verse: : “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; **knock** and the door will be opened to you” Matthew 7:7

Statement of intent

At Caton St. Paul’s the RE curriculum and teaching is rooted in the Christian faith of the school; this is based on a foundation of core Christian values: thankfulness, trust, perseverance, justice, service, truthfulness, courage, forgiveness, friendship, respect, generosity and compassion. RE has a vital role in reflecting, nurturing and conveying the distinctive Christian ethos of the school. We aim for the highest of standards and always strive for excellence. This is embedded in our school’s vision of **‘One family, belonging, believing and learning together’** and is based on our Bible verse of **‘So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others’ Romans 12:5**

Governors’ Responsibilities

At Caton St Paul’s the management of Religious Education is a distinctive role of the governors and Headteacher. RE is provided in accordance with the school’s Trust Deed and in accordance with the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England Church. The Governing Body as a whole is responsible for determining the nature of Religious Education provided at Caton St Paul’s.

RE Syllabus and time allocation of RE at St Paul’s

Caton St Paul’s has adopted the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education Syllabus for RE which fulfils all legal requirements and the RE Statement of Entitlement from the Church of England Education Office 2019. RE is taught to all registered pupils at Caton St Paul’s, except for those withdrawn by their parents. RE is a component of the basic curriculum and is taught alongside the national curriculum.

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- That the amount of time allocated to RE is at least 5%. This is the minimum recommended in national guidelines. There will be occasions when RE takes a larger slice of the curriculum, reflecting the Church School's greater commitment to the subject.
- Within the curriculum time for RE, Christianity should occupy a minimum of **70%** of the time, up to a maximum of **80%**. Therefore, **20% to 30%** of RE Curriculum time should be devoted to the world faiths listed below. The guidance given in this syllabus leads to an 80/20 split. As well as Christianity pupils should study aspects of the practices and beliefs of **Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism**. Guidance is given in the syllabus overviews and units as to appropriate content and length of time for this study.
- The Governing Body has a nominated member to be responsible for oversight of the school's RE provision and standards.

"Reflecting the school's trust deed or academy funding agreement parents and pupils are entitled to expect that in Church schools Christianity should be the majority religion studied in each year group and should be at least 50% of curriculum time. Sufficient dedicated curriculum time, meeting explicitly RE objectives, however organised, should be committed to the delivery of RE. This should aim to be close to 10% but must be no less than 5% in key stages 1-4."

RE Statement of Entitlement: The Church of England Education Office 2019

At Caton St Paul's we understand that although Religious Education and Collective Worship naturally compliment and enrich one another, they are managed separately.

The aims of Religious Education in Church Schools are:

- To know about and understand Christianity as a diverse global living faith through the exploration of core beliefs using an approach that critically engages with biblical text.
- To gain knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews appreciating diversity, continuity and change within the religions and worldviews being studied.
 - To engage with challenging questions of meaning and purpose raised by human existence and experience.
 - To recognise the concept of religion and its continuing influence on Britain's cultural heritage and in the lives of individuals and societies in different times, cultures and places.
 - To explore their own religious, spiritual and philosophical ways living, believing and thinking.

RE Statement of Entitlement: The Church of England Education Office 2019

Appropriate to age at the end of their education in Church schools the expectation is that all pupils are religiously literate and, as a minimum, pupils are able to:

- Give a theologically informed and thoughtful account of Christianity as a living and diverse faith.
- Show an informed and respectful attitude to religions and world views in their search for God and meaning.
- Engage in meaningful and informed dialogue with those of all faiths and none.
- Reflect critically and responsibly on their own spiritual, philosophical and ethical convictions.

RE Statement of Entitlement: The Church of England Education Office 2016

We learn about-

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- 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.

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.

Religious Education at St Paul's enthuses and helps our pupils to:

- **learn about all 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**.

Religious Education at St Paul's also enthuses and helps our 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 all 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.;

Religious Education at St Paul's should 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 **all 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.

RE makes a significant contribution to our pupils Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development.

Spiritual - Praise be to God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ - Ephesians 1:3

We encourage this by –

- Our Christian values.
- Daily worship.
- Inviting pupils to pray together.
- Inviting family and the wider community to worship with us.
- Engaging in regular worship at St Paul's church.
- Ethos committee.
- Children evaluating, planning and leading worship.
- Encouraging children to make their own decision about their spiritual journey.
- Developing a sense of respect that others may be on a different spiritual journey of a different faith.
- Having dedicated prayer spaces for all the school family.

Moral - But be very careful to keep the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the LORD gave you: to love the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, to keep his commands, to hold fast to him and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul – Joshua 22:5

We encourage this by –

- The teaching of our Christian values.
- Encouraging children to make behaviour choices based on God's teaching.
- Developing respect of people of other faiths, race and culture.
- Highlighting Christian morals that Jesus has taught us from the Bible.
- Encouraging children to discuss moral issues within a range of subjects, such as, PSHE and History.

Social - Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. 'The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these.'" – Mark 12 30-31

We encourage this by-

- Developing strong links between the local church and local community.
- Building relationships of respect, compassion and friendship within the whole school family.
- Supporting the community at local events, both Christian and non-religious.
- Encouraging children to be courageous advocates and strive for social change when they see an injustice.

Cultural - Undoubtedly there are all sorts of languages in the world, yet none of them is without meaning - 1 Corinthians 14:10

- Learning about British values.

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- Providing learning opportunities about other cultures and religions across the curriculum.
- Celebrating other cultures through the creative subjects.
- Exploring similarities and differences between Christianity and other religions.

SEN provision at Caton St Paul's

At Caton St Paul's the Governing body, SLT and teaching staff ensure that the teaching of RE is accessible to all pupils of all abilities and provides additional support through;

Differentiated lessons and appropriate resources which match the needs of the individual child's learning needs. These needs are taken into account by targets set in individual health care plans. SEN pupils are not withdrawn from RE lessons for interventions.

The contribution of RE to Christian and British values

At Caton St Paul's the teaching of RE positively drives the promotion of the fundamental British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

Resources

All teaching staff has a login for the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education Questful RE Website. There are books and items that support the teaching of the Questful RE units available in school. Bibles that are appropriate for different age groups are available to all children.

Assessment and record keeping

At Caton St Paul's assessment and record keeping are done so in accordance with guidance given in the BDBE RE Syllabus. The children are given opportunities to record their work in a variety of different ways.

Assessment and recording will include;

- Pupil discussion and questioning conversations
- Pupil discussion about their recorded work
- Verbal/ written feedback relevant to the RE learning objective
- Questful learning maps
- Comments recorded in the Class Special book about moral, spiritual and social development and learning from RE
- Verbal and written reports to parents

Monitoring and reviewing

- Head teacher/ SLT work scrutiny
- Internal moderation of work
- Assessment using the ladder of expectation of achievement in RE
- Whole school RE scrapbook
- Class and whole school displays
- Lesson observations

Parental rights of withdrawal in a Voluntary Aided School

The Church of England Board of Education allows parents to legally withdraw their children from Religious Education in school.



'The Worship and Religious Education provided by the school is in accordance with the Church of England or 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) cannot insulate them from the religious life of the school.' If such a request for withdrawal is made, the Headteacher should 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. Parents may request the governing board to provide Religious Education for their children according to the locally Agreed Syllabus. This can only be requested when parents cannot, with reasonable convenience, arrange for their children to attend another school where Religious Education is provided according to the locally Agreed Syllabus. The governing board should make provision unless the circumstances make it unreasonable to do so. Should the governing board be unable to make such arrangements for Religious Education to be delivered according to the Agreed Syllabus, the responsibility for doing so then falls on the Local Authority. The Local Authority may decide that such a request for separate Religious Education is unreasonable and the parental request then fails.

RE Co-ordinator – Miss Naomi Heap

Headteacher- Mr Ian Gittins

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