



**Heskin Pemberton's Church of England
Primary School
Religious Education Policy**

Our Mission Statement

'We are a happy Christian school where everyone is helped to be the best they can be'

Rationale

At Heskin Pemberton's CE Primary School, Religious Education is an integral part of our school life. We are a Voluntary Aided Primary School with a Christian foundation and, as such, Christianity forms the basis of (all the teaching in the) school and how we treat each other. Religious Education at Heskin Pemberton's school reflects our Christian values and ethos. It is a rich secure setting in which children can learn, grow and equip themselves for life.

As a Church of England Voluntary Aided School, we encourage our children to be inspired by the life and example of Jesus Christ. We strive to provide the best possible education for the children in our care, recognising their unique gifts and personalities, and seeking to promote excellence in both behaviour and work. Our aim is to nurture the children's essential individuality with a secure, happy and ordered environment, reflecting the love of the family of God. Heskin Pemberton's children are taught to recognise their own self-worth and potential and to respect other peoples' views, culture and religion.

Principles and Aims

At Heskin Pemberton's the Religious Education provided is in conformity with the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England as laid down in the Trust Deed. As set out in our Mission Statement, we feel that Christian values provide the key to the school ethos. The spiritual development of all in the school community is seen as fundamental. We seek to nurture an understanding of the Christian faith and a respect of other world religions.

We believe that Religious Education has a vital part to play in the education of children of primary age. The subject is concerned with:



- * developing knowledge, understanding and awareness of Christianity and other principal religions;
- * fostering a sense of awe and wonder
- * encouraging respect for those holding different beliefs;
- * promoting spiritual, moral, cultural and mental development.

Religious education is an important school subject. It can make a substantial contribution to the general personal and social development of every child in line with the overall aims of the school.

Religious education has a particular part to play in pupils' spiritual development. We see spiritual development in terms of pupils' capacity to reflect on fundamental aspects of life. This is not to be viewed too narrowly in terms of R.E. and Collective Worship; other subjects should also contribute to pupils' spiritual development.

Religious education has a part to play in helping children to learn about the rich ethnic and cultural diversity found in this country and the wider world. It is also a valuable means of exploring attitudes about the roles of women and men.

Through Religious education we seek to nurture an understanding of the Christian Faith and a respect of other world religions.

The Syllabus

Religious education in this school is provided under the terms of the Blackburn Diocesan Syllabus but the teachers have the freedom to personalise, adapt and be creative to inspire our children.

The principal aim of R.E. is to enable pupils to:

'acquire knowledge and understanding of Christianity and the other principal religions represented in Great Britain, and to develop the ability to explore, respond to and reflect on human experience, drawing on their study of religion.'

Work in R.E. will contribute to the development of certain general study skills. The subject is particularly suitable as a vehicle for developing the skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening. R.E. will involve intellectual challenge for both the most and the least able.



R.E. and Collective Worship are legally distinct. R.E. is an educational process, while worship is an opportunity to take part in the affirmation and celebration of certain basic values. While recognising the separate nature of the two activities, teachers will, on occasion, draw upon work in R.E. as part of worship, and vice versa.

We teach the two attainment targets for our whole programme of Religious Education:
AT 1 - Knowledge and understanding of religion i.e.: the EXPLICIT aspect of RE. Religion is viewed as a system of beliefs which guide and justify the behaviour of believers. This aspect of RE makes a specific and distinctive contribution to children's knowledge and understanding.

AT 2 - Reflection on experience, beliefs and values i.e. the IMPLICIT aspect of RE.

Children make meaning of and find purpose in their lives through reflection on experience and begin to develop a sense of their beliefs and identity.

Each class is taught RE weekly. At least one hour of curriculum time will be devoted to Religious Education as a discrete subject with the majority of that time being spent on the teaching of Christianity. In addition, in a church school there will be many other occasions when a significant contribution is made to pupil's religious development through other subjects and aspects of school life.

The subject is approached in a variety of ways, using multi-sensory approaches to help the children to learn.

All children are taught units of work that cover Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Islam or Sikhism.

Formal recording is not always necessary, but can take many forms. At least one unit of work each term is assessed using the 8 point scaling document. Evidence is collated in scrap books as well as the children's work books.

Resources are kept centrally and regularly checked and renewed, as necessary.

Visits are made to relevant places of worship and when appropriate, we also encourage visitors to school to broaden the children's experience.



Displays of work achieved in RE are varied and used in each class. For the major celebrations of Christmas and Easter, we create RE displays in the Hall which include writing drawn from the requirements of AT2.

The aims of the school are rooted in Christian Gospel Values and underpin all aspects of our school life.

Good relationships with the wider community, national and international, through school and children initiating charity fund raising. We support local charities and donate harvest gifts.

Parental Rights of Withdrawal

Parents can withdraw their children from Religious Education and this provision and its limitations are indicated in the school prospectus.

Complaints about the provision of Religious Education

It is hoped that any complaint will be resolved by the Head Teacher, in consultation with the Governors, and possibly with advice from the Diocese. However, if the complaint is not satisfactorily resolved, then formal procedures come into play and the matter will be adjudicated by a specially constituted sub-committee for the Diocesan Board of Education acting on behalf of the Bishop of the Diocese.

Relationship to School Worship

The school also follows the Blackburn Diocese themes for Worship. The aim is to link worship to areas of the RE Syllabus and the teaching of Gospel values.

Links with St. James' The Great Wrightington with Heskin

- Play and praise play group
- Links with Governing Body/ PCC/ Staff presence at church monthly
- Start of a new academic year service
- The Harvest Festival
- Remembrance service
- Christmas Service
- Christmas Carol Service
- Easter Service
- Use of the Church for educational visits
- Fortnightly Worship led by Rev Polly
- The Waring Treat end of year celebration



- In school communion
- School foundation link governors
- Ethos governors committee

Roles and Responsibilities

The whole school community is responsible for preserving and developing the religious character of the school and is led by:

The Incumbent & RE Link Governor: Rev Polly Mason

Head Teacher & RE Subject Leader: Wayne Bretherton and Ruth Hughes

PCC link governor - Mrs Karen Collins

The Role of the Religious Education Subject Leader

- To show by example excellent RE practice.
- To monitor the effectiveness of the planned and delivered curriculum specifically in RE.
- To guide and support teachers in this subject, and to provide, where necessary, appropriate training and development.
- To audit and monitor the quality of RE resources, including online and other web-based technologies, to ensure effective learning and teaching across the school.
- To work closely with the link Governor, the Incumbent and the Head Teacher.

The Role of the RE link Governor

- To be a critical friend to both the RE co-ordinator and the senior management team, to ensure high quality RE provision.
- To liaise closely with the RE Subject Leader, and Head Teacher.
- To attend appropriate training linked to RE.
- To feedback to Governors, keeping them informed of RE across the school.

Responsibility for leadership and the management of Religious Education to secure high quality teaching, effective use of resources and improved standards of learning and achievement for all pupils is led by:-

Headteacher: Wayne Bretherton

RE Subject Leader: Ruth Hughes

This policy was reviewed 1st September 2016 and will be reconsidered September 2017

