

St Wilfrid's CE Primary School



'BELONGING, BELIEVING, BECOMING'

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

Religious Education in a Church School should be of the highest standard, always striving for excellence, reflecting the school's distinctive Christian character.

St Wilfrid's CE Primary School is part of the St James and Emmanuel Academy Trust, with Didsbury CE and West Didsbury CE Primary Schools. Religious Education is a distinctive role of the Governors and Head Teacher. At St Wilfrid's CE Primary School the Religious Education provided is in conformity with the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England.

Our Mission Statement is:-

Our Christian school exists to provide a welcoming environment in which everybody is cherished and challenged to fulfil their potential.

The School's Mission Statement has been agreed by the Staff, Children, Parents and Governors.

We are part of the St James and Emmanuel Academy Trust whose three key values we embrace and which are –

Belonging, Believing and Becoming

To **'belong'** is to be part of a family, to know you are valued for who you are, not just what you achieve. As a Christian Foundation our primary place of belonging is in and with the God who loves us, and this informs the culture of acceptance, tolerance and forgiveness that creates and sustains our schools. If you are a parent, a member of staff, or a pupil at our schools then you belong, whatever your beliefs, whatever your background.

To **'believe'** is to grow as a whole person, not just an economic entity. It is to believe in your gifts and talents and to be encouraged and nurtured in an environment of academic excellence and to learn from inspiring teaching professionals.

To **'become'** is the mysterious element in our educational vision. When a child or a member of staff has the security of belonging, and believes in themselves and their environment, then they will 'become' the wonderful and unique person they are destined to be. We will nurture this individuality through a creative and inspiring curriculum and provide opportunities to experience and experiment. To educate is to draw out the uniqueness of the individual and to let it shine.

St Wilfrid's is a Church school and so the teaching of RE lies at the very heart of the curriculum

- Governors have adopted the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education Syllabus for RE which reflects the National Framework for RE, the National Society Statement of Entitlement and the requirements of SIAMS;
- At least 5% of curriculum time is devoted to RE;
- Christianity plays a central role in RE, taking up to 80% of the time available;
- Appropriate teaching about the Jewish and Islamic faiths and world views is included in the RE curriculum.

The teaching of Religious Education at St Wilfrid's maintains a balanced approach between Learning about Religion (Attainment Target 1) and Learning from Religion (Attainment Target 2).

AT 1 - Learning about Religion

We learn about

- 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.

At 2 - Learning from Religion

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.

See Appendix 1 for a full overview of the RE curriculum.

Religious Education at St Wilfrid's helps 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 other 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.;

It is necessary in today's world that children should be encouraged to foster a respect for the followers of the other world faiths. It is essential that this respect is based on an accurate and sympathetic understanding of those faiths.

Therefore at St Wilfrid's RE also help pupils to:

- learn *about* other 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 Wilfrid's provides the children with:

- opportunities to explore the experience of the Church's year;
- study of the story of the local Christian community with its saints and martyrs;
- visits to places of worship, especially the local Church and a Cathedral, to develop the understanding of the Church as a living community;
- welcoming visitors from the local parish to share their experience of Christian belief and life;
- liaison with the local parish to enable these visits and links to occur;

- skills to confidently use religious language to express knowledge and opinions;
- a well-used set of Bibles in language that can be understood by the learners and examples of Bibles and prayer books from a variety of contexts;
- the facility to listen to Christian 'psalms, hymns and spiritual songs' from a wide variety of traditions;
- access to Christian artefacts that are used with care, respect and confidence;

Religious Education at St Wilfrid's enables:

- 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 other 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.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development.

Spiritual development within RE in a Church School 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.

Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting

The RE Subject Leader, in partnership with the phase leaders, is responsible for the monitoring and reviewing of the teaching of RE in school and for reporting standards in

RE to the Governing Body. This includes, work scrutiny, pupil interviews, lesson observations and the review of assessment data. The RE Leader is responsible for ensuring that RE is appropriately resourced.

Assessments are carried out on a termly basis in line with recommendations in the Blackburn Diocese Board of Education Syllabus.

Class teachers report on standards in RE to parents in the children's annual progress report.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies:-

- Worship Policy
- Single Equality Policy
- SEND Policy

Parental Rights of Withdrawal in a Voluntary Aided School.

The Worship and Religious Education provided by the school is in accordance with the Church of England. 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.'

September 2016

Review date September 2019