



Religious Education Policy

Love Faith. Love People. Love Learning.

***'Join together to support and encourage one another to promote
love and good works' Hebrews 10:24***

Approved at Full Governing Body Meeting:

Review date:

How much better to get wisdom than gold! To get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver.

Proverbs 16:16



Our School Mission Statement

Our mission is to work in partnership within a welcoming, caring, inclusive Christian community, to support our children to develop their God given gifts to the full and live fulfilling lives, rooted in the values taught by Jesus; based on the Gospel value of **love for one another**.

As a church school, our work is underpinned by the Christian values of *love, respect, trust, forgiveness, friendship, honesty and perseverance*.

We will provide a rich and varied curriculum, which reflects God's love for the whole child: promoting spiritual, moral, cultural, physical and emotional wellbeing alongside independence and academic success.

We will show love to all children who are part of the Bidston Village family, helping them to develop self- confidence, tolerance, respect for themselves and others and to become the best that they can be, remembering our golden rule:

'Treat other people the way you expect to be treated'

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Introduction

Bidston Village CE Primary is an Anglican Church School with strong links to St Oswald's church and the local community. We promote a family friendly atmosphere, where everyone is encouraged to care for each other. We pride ourselves on the fact that Bidston Village is a happy school with a positive atmosphere and excellent relationships between staff and pupils. The religious education it provides is in conformity with the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England. The Governing Body as a whole is responsible for monitoring the nature of Religious Education provided in its school.

We acknowledge our responsibility as God's family in this place; to learn to love God, to learn to love others and to love ourselves as children of God.

Through this and in the general ethos of the school we seek to promote our vision:

Love Faith.

Let your light shine before people, so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16

Love People

So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you.
Matthew 7:12

Love Learning

Wise people are always learning. Wise people always want to listen
Proverbs 18:15

This inspires our community to grow together in Christ our Saviour, to love and serve one another, to reach out in witness to our neighbours, to live in peace with one another and promote life in all its fullness.

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Statement for Religious Education

(The Church of England Statement of Entitlement February 2019)

At Bidston Village C.E. Primary School the educational process is rooted in the living faith of our school. We are proud of the important role of Religious Education in reflecting and conveying the distinctively Christian character of our school and are committed to “studying Christianity as a living and diverse faith, focussed on the teaching of Jesus and the Church.”

“There is a clear expectation that as inclusive communities, church schools provide sequenced learning about a range of religions and worldviews fostering respect for others. “(The Church of England Statement of entitlement 2019)

At Bidston Village CE Primary School we have adopted the Chester Diocesan Syllabus for RE in line with the Local Authority’s guidelines of what is to be taught. This is supported by the ‘Understanding Christianity’ resource which fulfils all legal requirements and the RE Statement of Entitlement from the Church of England Education Office 2019.

Religious education is the vehicle for living the vision of our church school and pupils can expect that the RE curriculum will:

- Engage and challenge them through an exploration of core concepts and questions
- Provide meaningful dialogue with a range of religions and worldviews
- Have opportunities to understand the role of foundational texts, beliefs, rituals and practices and how they help form identity in a range of religions and world views
- Explore how these may change in different times, places and cultures
- Introduce pupils to a range of relevant disciplines including theology, philosophy and the human and social sciences
- Develop confident religious literacy

At Bidston Village CE, the management of Religious Education is the distinctive role of the governors, head teacher and Religious Education lead, ensuring that pupils flourish academically, emotionally and spiritually through the provision of high-quality RE.

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At Bidston Village CE Primary School there are timetabled opportunities for the RE Subject Leader to monitor books, undertake learning walks and to track progress of pupils.

Assessment activities are built into each unit of work and class teachers report class progress through the agreed recording system. The subject leaders and head teacher have shared responsibility for monitoring progress and attainment in RE.

Entitlement for Religious Education in our Church School

(The Church of England Statement of entitlement 2019)

At Bidston Village CE Primary the pupils and their families can expect that RE will have a high profile within the curriculum and will be a priority for senior leaders. The RE curriculum is intrinsic to the outworking of our school's Christian vision in enabling all pupils to flourish. In addition, the RE curriculum will contribute to British values and spiritual moral social and cultural development.

Learning activities provide fully for the needs of all pupils including SEND pupils.

Pupils should develop a wide range of skills including enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and reflection.

Pupils should have a safe space to explore their own religious, spiritual and/or philosophical ways of seeing, living and thinking, believing and belonging.

They should have opportunities to engage in meaningful and informed dialogue with those of all religions and worldviews.

RE must be considered an academic subject.

All pupils are entitled to religious education that is delivered in an objective, critical and pluralistic manner. Pupils are entitled to a balanced RE curriculum which enquires into religions and worldviews through theology, philosophy and the human and the social sciences. It should be a coherent curriculum that enables progress through ordered and sequential learning developing both knowledge and skills. There should be a clear curriculum vision and intent, a structure for implementation and provision and a process for evaluating impact.

The aims of Religious Education

- 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.

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- 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 of living, believing and thinking.

At Bidston Village CE learning in RE is recorded in class floor books, which shows development across year groups, and in individual workbooks which indicate individual understanding and progress.

Curriculum balance and time

Christianity should be the majority religion studied in each year group and each individual lesson is 75 minutes per week. Our core values, taken from the fruits of the spirit, underpin all aspects of the curriculum. During the summer term, Y1-Y6 each study another world religion, this is to help the children understand and respect all religions and those who may practise these religions in our school.

Developing staff expertise and knowledge: confidence, specialism professionalism

Pupils in church schools are entitled to be taught by teachers who have a secure subject knowledge and are confident in helping them navigate and challenge cultural and religious stereotypes, prejudice and extremism. It should be a priority in church schools to build up staff expertise in RE specifically, but not exclusively, working towards:

- At least one member of staff having RE qualifications or receiving specialist training
- All staff teaching RE having access to subject specific professional development
- All staff teaching RE knowing how to create and maintain classrooms in which academic rigour is balanced with respect for different personal beliefs and identities
- All teaching staff and governors understanding the distinctive role and purpose of RE within church schools
- A governing body which is monitoring standards in RE effectively.

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Teachers in Church Schools belong to a wider educational and church community. They are entitled to expert positive support in providing effective and excellent religious education from

- A named member of staff responsible for religious education and, where that person is the head teacher someone who shadows the role
- Their senior management team and their governing body, especially foundation governors
- Their local Diocesan Board of Education, including their school's adviser with an appropriate religious education background
- The Church of England Education Office
- Local clergy and other ministers and Christian communities

At Bidston Village Primary School Mrs Katharine John, Deputy Head Teacher, and Miss Claire Gartland are the RE subject leaders. Miss Gartland is a specialist in the subject and is also PCC secretary and Safeguarding Officer at St Oswald's Church. She attends regular Wirral Anglican Schools Cluster meetings and has completed the Foundations for Ministry course, within Chester Diocese, in association with Chester University and is currently studying to become a Reader within the Church of England.

RE is supported in school by the clergy from our parish church, The Revd Joe Smith, who comes into school weekly to deliver assemblies, and conducts walks around the school to see the visual learning of RE through work on display within corridors.

Our Code of Conduct:

These values support and inform our code of conduct and learning behaviours.

Our rules are:

1. We are kind, polite and helpful.
2. We always try our best.
3. We look after our school and everything in it.
4. We always tell the truth.

Always treat others as you would like to be treated – Matthew 7:12

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Our **Learning Behaviours** are:

- * Active listening
- * Persevering
- * Have a go!
- * Being creative
- * Being curious

Learning Provision throughout school

Christian Values

Christian Values are at the heart of our school and shape how we learn and treat each other. This ensures a sense of common purpose and mutual respect within our diverse school community. Our Christian character impacts upon the achievement of each child in its widest sense, including the academic and personal development of all learners, together with their well-being and spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

SEND Provision

Access to the curriculum:

All children have an entitlement to a broad and balanced curriculum, which is differentiated to enable children to:

- Understand the relevance and purpose of learning activities;
- Experience levels of understanding and rates of progress that bring feelings of success and achievement.

Teachers use a range of strategies to meet children's special educational needs. Lessons have clear learning objectives; we differentiate work appropriately, and we use assessment to inform the next stage of learning.

We support children in a manner that acknowledges their entitlement to share the same learning experiences that their peers enjoy. In order to maximise learning, we may ask the children to work in small groups, or in a one-to-one situation (perhaps outside the classroom) where they can be supported in their learning.

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British Values

The Department for Education state that there is a need “to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. At Bidston Village, these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways.

Democracy

Democracy is embedded at the school. Pupils are always listened to by adults and are taught to listen carefully and with concern to each other, respecting the right of every individual to have their opinions and voices heard. Pupils also have the opportunity to air their opinions and ideas through our Pupil Parliament and regular questionnaires. The elections of the Pupil Parliament members are based solely on pupil votes, reflecting our British electoral system and demonstrating democracy in action. Democracy is also an element of our PSHE curriculum and during KS2 children have opportunities to explore democracy through the local and national political systems.

The Rule of Law

The importance of laws whether they are those that govern the class, the school or the country, are consistently reinforced. Our school has a code of conduct, which is deeply embedded in our work every day. Each class also discusses and sets its own rules that are clearly understood by all and seen to be necessary to ensure that every class member is able to learn in a safe and ordered environment. Our pupils are taught the value and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken.

Individual Liberty

Within school, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for our pupils to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and an empowering education. Our pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely; examples of this can be clearly seen in our e-safety and P.S.H.E. lessons. Whether it is through choice of challenge; of how they record; of participation in our numerous extra-curricular activities; our pupils are given the freedom to make choices.

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Mutual Respect

The pupils understand that respect is essential in order that we exist in harmony with each other. It is expected that respect is shown to everyone, whatever differences we may have and to everything, however big or small. The core value of Respect at Bidston Village underpins our work every day both in and out of the classroom and is also reflected in our Golden Rules.

Tolerance of Those With Different Faiths And Beliefs

Our core value of Respect ensures tolerance of those who have different faiths and beliefs. Bidston Village enhances pupils' understanding of different faiths and beliefs through religious education studies including visits to a range of places of worship and inviting pupils and parents in to class to talk about their own faith. Through this our pupils gain an enhanced understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society.

Parental Rights of Withdrawal in a Voluntary Controlled School.

Legal background

We accept that:

"All pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each day take part in Religious Education and an act of collective worship" unless "the parent . . . requests that he may be wholly or partly excused from attendance at religious education lessons and religious worship in the school" [1988 Education Reform Act 6(1) and 9(3)]

We acknowledge the parents' right to withdraw their children and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. We make it clear that the act of worship is central to the life of the school and is not an occasion for evangelism. We also affirm that the withdrawal of pupils from RE or collective worship would not isolate them from the Christian teaching the school gives.

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