

# Barkisland CE (VA) Primary School

## Policy for Religious Education



### Purpose of RE

Our vision for RE is based on the national guidance issued by the RE Council in 2013, the local agreed syllabus, 2014 and the Understanding Christianity resources published in 2017.

Our world is enriched by a wide and profound diversity of cultures and beliefs. Human beings are strengthened and empowered by learning from each other. Engaging and stimulating RE helps to nurture informed and resilient responses to misunderstanding, stereotyping and division. It offers a place of integrity and security within which difficult or 'risky' questions can be tackled within a safe but challenging context. Religious education contributes dynamically to children and young people's education in schools by provoking challenging questions about meaning and purpose in life, beliefs about God, ultimate reality, issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human. In RE pupils discover, explore and consider different answers to these questions, in local, national and global contexts, through learning about and from religions and other world views. They learn to appraise the value of wisdom from different sources, to develop and express their insights in response, and to agree or disagree respectfully.

Teaching should equip pupils with knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and other world views, enabling them to develop their ideas, values and identities. It should develop in pupils an aptitude for dialogue so that they can participate positively in society with its diverse understanding of life from religious and other world views.

Pupils should gain and deploy the skills needed to understand, interpret and evaluate texts, sources of wisdom and authority and other evidence. They learn to articulate clearly and coherently their personal beliefs, ideas, values and experiences while respecting the right of others to differ.

### RE curriculum

In school, the curriculum is based on the Local Agreed Syllabus for Calderdale and Kirklees, produced by SACRE for teaching from September 2014

The syllabus has three aims for pupils:

- A. To know about and understand a range of religions and other world views;
- B. To express ideas and insights about questions of beliefs and meaning;
- C. To investigate and respond to important questions for individuals and the wider community.

At Key Stage 1, teaching and learning is focused around Christianity and Islam, alongside understanding of non-religious approaches to life. At Key Stage 2, teaching and learning is extended to include Christianity, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism, alongside understanding of non-religious approaches to life.

Class teachers assess the children when they have reached the end of each unit against the key stage statements in the syllabus, they will be levelled as emerging, expected or exceeding.

In September 2017 we will introduce the Understanding Christianity units of work into Reception, Year 1, Year 3 and Year 5. These units will replace the Christianity units from the Calderdale and Kirklees Syllabus. In 2017-2018 the whole school will follow the Understanding Christianity units of work.

### RE lessons

RE is timetabled so that pupils are provided with at least 1 hour of RE every week, class teachers will make cross curricular links with other subjects where possible.

In order to make religious education a lively, active subject we employ a variety of teaching methods including art, music, discussion, the development of thinking skills, drama, the use of artefacts, pictures, stories, and the use of periods of stillness and reflection.

Where possible we want our pupils to have opportunities to encounter local faith communities through visits to local places of worship or visits from members of local faith communities into our lessons.

### Withdrawal from RE

Parents have a statutory right to withdraw a child from religious education. If a parent is considering withdrawal from RE we will listen to their concerns, inviting them to do so with the head teacher or other representative of the school. We work hard to ensure that any reservations or doubts may be accommodated to avoid withdrawal but recognise that a parent has this right if reservations cannot be resolved. Any formal decision to withdraw should be made in writing to the head teacher. The school will arrange for appropriate arrangements to be made to supervise the pupil in school during RE lessons.