



**Barkisland CE (VA) Primary School**  
**WE BELIEVE, WE NURTURE, WE SUCCEED!**

## **Barkisland CE (VA) Primary School**

### **Religious Education & Collective Worship Policy**

#### **Purpose of RE**

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

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 should be extended to include Christianity, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism, alongside understanding of non-religious approaches to life.

### **Assessment**

Class teachers assess the children at the end of each term against the key stage statements in the syllabus; they will be levelled as emerging, expected or exceeding.

### **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.

### **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.

## Collective Worship Overview

Barkisland CE (VA) Primary School is a Church of England Primary School maintained the Diocese of Leeds.

The law requires all schools to provide a daily collective act of worship that is wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian nature for most of the time. At Barkisland School we will meet the requirements of the law in full and collective worship has a high profile within school. Where parents request it, their children will be withdrawn from the collective worship and alternative arrangements will be made for them.

The Headteacher carefully plans the themes for worship taking into account the Christian calendar in addition to other major world faiths. Our collective worships are themed to underpin our schools 10 core values;



## An example of a typical collective worship week at Barkisland;

Monday	Week A – Clergy led* Week B – Headteacher led
Tuesday	Headteacher led
Wednesday	Multi-Faith Worship Classteacher rota
Thursday	Deputy Headteacher led
Friday	Merit Celebration of children's work worship

*\*Members of the clergy lead worship fortnightly following the themes set in school. This is usually the first worship of a new theme.*

### **Aims & Objectives of Collective Worship**

1. Each day all children will have the opportunity to participate in a high quality occasion of worship and quiet reflection.
2. A variety of different opportunities will be used to meet our statutory duty.
3. Strong links will be made between spiritual, moral, social and cultural education and religious education.
4. Collective worship will contribute to pupil's experience of awe and wonder.
5. A good ethos will be created for worship enabling children to enjoy music, singing and celebration.
6. Worship helps children understand and experience the meaning of religious festivals and holy days.

### **Strategy**

1. On some occasions the school will meet corporately and in other groupings to join in worship.
2. On some occasions worship will be held in classrooms and be led by teachers and children at appropriate times during the day.
3. Children will have an opportunity say grace before meals and prayers of thanks after meals.
4. Pupils will learn well known prayers and hymns.
5. Worship will be used for celebration and thanksgiving.
6. Pupils will be given opportunities to participate in worship and lead worship.
7. On some occasions parents will be invited to participate in collective worship.
8. Occasionally outside speakers will be brought in to address the children and where appropriate, lead acts of worship.
9. On special occasions worship will be linked to religious festivals e.g. Christmas and Easter.
10. Records of religious worship will be kept to show that the requirements of the law have been met.

## **Outcomes**

At Barkisland, pupils will be offered excellent opportunities to experience enjoy and participate in a variety of different kinds of acts of worship. They will have the opportunity to experience an ethos conducive to spiritual development through prayer and reflection. They will learn develop positive attitudes to worship and worshipping communities.

*Subject Co-Ordinator: Felicity Haigh and Becky Schofield  
Reviewed: March 2016*