



## **Wraxall Church of England Primary School**

### **RE Policy**

**Policy Approved by Governors:**

**Authorised for Issue: June 2021**

**To next be reviewed: June 2022**

## Our School Vision

Picture a school at the heart of the community, surrounded by nature and where the children can't wait to arrive in the morning because they know that they will experience the excitement and joy of learning.

Picture a school where the children are *inspired* to aim high and believe that their dreams are achievable because they will have developed the skills and knowledge needed. They have the confidence to challenge themselves because they know that their mistakes will only make them stronger. They will flourish and become all that they aspire to be.

Picture a school where the children are *nurtured* to be the best that they can be. They know that school is a safe and inclusive place because they have seen that all are welcomed and cared for. They will show compassion in all that they do and will make society a kinder place for all.

Picture a school where the children are celebrated for being unique individuals who together form a strong and united team. They become active and creative citizens who will *achieve* amazing things throughout their lives and develop a better future for all.

Picture Wraxall Church of England Primary School – *Inspiring, Nurturing, Achieving*

Our School Vision Statement takes as its starting point the following model developed by the Church of England and the Church in Wales:

'Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at Parish and Diocesan level.'

The school vision also reflects the Church of England's Vision for Education and supports the promotion of Christian values. Our vision is based around elements of 'The Parable of the Sower'.

"The seeds sown in good soil" Mark 4: 13-20

In our school we follow our values to help us to show compassion towards others and our world. When we demonstrated our values, we are helping our school to grow and flourish and enabling our community to live "life in all its fullness" John 10:10

## Our School Christian Values

Our School's Christian Values are demonstrated in all that we do and say

**\*Compassion \* Responsibility \* Respect \* Perseverance \* Friendship \* Honesty \* Courage**

We show **compassion** in all that we do and say.

“Love your neighbour as yourself” Mark 12:30

Bible Story – The Kind Stranger ‘The Good Samaritan’

‘My neighbour is anyone who needs help’. We should care for everyone no matter who they are.

We take **responsibility** for our actions and the impact that they have on the world around us.

“Let each of you look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.” Philippians 2:4

Bible Story – In the beginning ‘Creation Story’

‘This is what I call good!’ We must be responsible for our world.

We **respect** ourselves and others and show compassion towards other living things.

“Be kind and compassionate to one another.” Ephesians 4:32

Bible Story – Jesus and the children ‘..’

‘They are as important to me as anyone else.’ Jesus respected everyone.

We demonstrate **perseverance** when we keep trying and don’t give up when we face challenges.

“So let us not become tired of doing good, for if we do not give up, the time will come when we will reap the harvest.” Galatians 6:9

Bible Story – Jesus and the Taxman ‘Zacchaeus’

‘He wanted to see Jesus. He really did!’ He persevered to find a way to see Jesus.

We are **honest** and take ownership of our decisions and choices.

“You will teach me Wisdom” Psalm 51:6

Bible Story – The Big Spender ‘The Prodigal Son’

‘He was lost, now he’s found.’ He was honest to his father who gave him another chance – forgave him.

We show **friendship** when we put ourselves in others shoes and offer a hand of compassion.

“Share each other’s burdens.” Galatians 6:2

Bible Story – An Important Meal ‘The Last Supper’

‘I will never forget you.’ Jesus loved his friends to the end.

We show **courage** when we have the strength to stand up for what we know and believe to be right.

“Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” John 14:27

Bible Story – David the Giant Killer ‘David and Goliath’

‘But you are so little and he is so big!’ David, a boy, stood up against a bully.

‘Religious education in a Church school should enable every child to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10). It will help educate for dignity and respect encouraging all to live life well together.’

RE Statement of Entitlement from the Church of England

Education Office Feb 2019

## **Policy Statement**

Religious Education (RE) has a very high profile within the Wraxall CofE Primary curriculum and makes a significant contribution to preparing pupils for life in modern Britain. Learning activities provide fully for the needs of all learners. Pupils will be inspired by the subject and develop a wide range of skills such as enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and reflection, to deepen their understanding of the impact of religion on the world. Christianity is taught as a living and diverse faith, focused on the teachings of Jesus and the Church, alongside a range of religions and worldviews. Religious Education encourages pupils to learn from different religions, beliefs, values and traditions while creating a safe space for them to explore their own beliefs and questions of meaning.

## **Legal Requirements**

As a former Voluntary Aided School, at Wraxall CofE Primary our governing body determines our RE curriculum, which is in accordance with the school's trust deed and is discussed with the diocese. The school teaches religious education according to the North Somerset agreed syllabus, with additional teaching on Christianity.

Section 48 of the 2005 Education Act requires the inspection of religious education in schools which have a religious character. This is the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS)

## **Manging the right to withdraw**

Parents have a right by law to withdraw their children from the Religious Education curriculum. In this event, we will undertake responsibility for their supervision with regard to health and safety. Information on these arrangements are clear on our website. There will always be opportunity for parents to discuss the contents of the RE curriculum should they have concerns.

## **Aims of RE**

- To enable pupils to know about and understand Christianity as a living faith that influences the lives of people worldwide and as the religion that has most shaped British culture and heritage.
- To enable pupils to know about and understand other major world religions and world views, their impact on society, culture and the wider world, and to appreciate the diversity, continuity and change within those religions and world views
- To engage with challenging questions of meaning and purpose
- To contribute to the development of pupils' own spiritual/philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own beliefs and values.

## **Teaching and Learning**

In line with the Church of England RE Statement of Entitlement [2019] at Wraxall CofE Primary we aim to provide:

- A curriculum that enables pupils to acquire a rich, deep knowledge and understanding of Christian belief and practice
- A curriculum that draws on the richness and diversity of religious experience worldwide
- The opportunity for pupils to deepen their understanding of the religion and world views as lived by believers

- A pedagogy that instils respect for different views and interpretations; and, in which real dialogue and theological enquiry takes place
- Engaging and varied learning activities that provide for the needs of all learners, supported by high quality resources
- The opportunity for pupils to develop a wide range of skills including enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and reflection
- RE that makes a positive contribution to SMSC development and also to pupils' understanding of British values
- An assessment process which has rigour and demonstrates progression based on knowledge and understanding of core religious concepts

### **Implementation**

- Religious education may be taught in a 'whole class' setting but with flexibility to allow for discussion, questioning and reflection in small groups and individually
- Visits to local churches and other places of worship are encouraged
- A variety of teaching approaches are encouraged:
- Teacher presentations, role play, drama and story telling
- Questions and answer sessions, discussions and debates
- Individual and group research
- Photographs, pictures and maps
- IT, film, podcasts, radio, websites, to research and communicate ideas.

### **Curriculum balance and time**

Reflecting Wraxall CofE Primary School's academy funding agreement, Christianity should be the majority religion studied and should be at least 50% of curriculum time. Sufficient dedicated curriculum time, meeting explicitly RE objectives, should be given to RE. This should aim to be close to 10% but no less than 5% in key stages 1 and 2

### **Monitoring, Evaluation, Assessment, Recording, Reporting**

- Governors have responsibility for monitoring how the RE in the school reflects its Christian vision
- The headteacher has overall responsibility for monitoring and evaluation.
- The RE subject leader will assist the headteacher by monitoring long term and medium term plans.
- The RE subject leader will assist the headteacher by monitoring RE through work scrutinies
- The subject leader will keep a file of examples of work to demonstrate continuity and progression.
- The subject leader will manage resources.
- The subject leader will endeavour to keep up to date with information, initiatives and developments in religious education and disseminate this as appropriate.
- The subject leader will be aware of staff development needs and encourage continuing professional development.
- The subject leader will facilitate the sharing of good practice.

- The subject leader will be responsible for drawing up an action plan for religious education. Generally this will be an annual plan and should be informed by this policy.
- The subject leader will liaise with the Diocesan adviser with responsibility for Religious Education