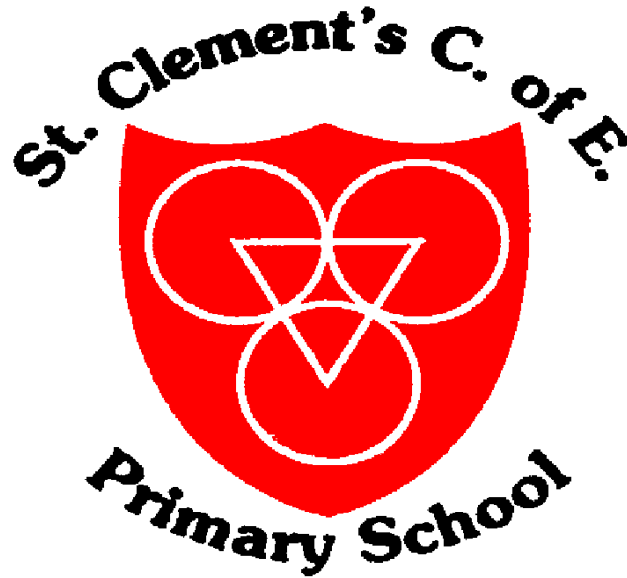


St Clement's C. of E. Primary School



Religious Education Policy

Approved by Jane Parker (Head): Sept 25

Due for review: September 2026

Growing Together To Let Our Light Shine

“With Faith, Hope and Love We Can Achieve Greater Things.”

“Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. Three things will last forever- faith, hope and love- and the greatest of these is love.” 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 New Living Translation

Vision Statement:

At St. Clement’s, we aim to ensure that everyone thrives within our caring Christian community.

We will use our Christian Values and Bible verse to provide hope during difficult times, gain strength from our faith, and ensure love guides us, as an inclusive school family, in all our actions.

Our Christian Values: (Guiding our Thinking and Behaviour)

Love- (Core Value that all of our 6 Values Flow):

Faith

Hope

Respect

Compassion

Forgiveness

Thankfulness

DDA STATEMENT

At St. Clement’s we will aim to:

- Promote equality of opportunity between disabled people and others.**
- Eliminate discrimination that is unlawful under the Act.**
- Eliminate harassment of disabled pupils that is related to their disabilities.**
- Promote positive attitudes towards disabled people.**
- Encourage participation by disabled people in public life.**
- Take account of a disabled person’s disabilities, even when that involves treating a disabled person more favourably than another person.**

Links to Rights Respecting School Award Articles: 1,2,3,4, 5,6,7,8,12,13,14,15,28,29, 30, 41, 42

St Clements Cof E Primary School **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”

As a Voluntary Controlled School, we are required in law (unless parent/carers request otherwise) to provide RE in accordance with their Locally Agreed Syllabus. However, RE in a Voluntary Controlled School should still have a distinctive approach. At the heart of RE in church schools is the teaching of Christianity, rooted in the person and work of Jesus Christ. There is a clear expectation that as inclusive communities, church schools encourage learning about other religions and world views* fostering respect for them. Although there is not a National Curriculum for RE, all maintained schools have a statutory duty to teach it. This is equally applicable to academies and free schools as it is to maintained schools. In foundation and voluntary controlled schools with a religious character, RE must be taught according to the Locally Agreed Syllabus unless parents request RE in accordance with the trust deed of the school.

Although Religious Education and Collective Worship naturally compliment and enrich one another, they are managed separately at St Clements C of E Primary School.

Religious Education in a Church School lies at the very heart of the curriculum

It is recommended

- that Governors adopt the Local authority approved syllabus for RE (including links to “Understanding Christianity” unit resources) which reflects the National Framework for RE, the National Society Statement of Entitlement and the requirements of SIAMS;
- that at least 5% of curriculum time is devoted to RE
- Alongside the teaching of Christianity, appropriate teaching about other faiths and world views is included.

It is essential that the Religious Education curriculum maintains a balanced approach of Learning about Religion and Learning from Religion.

This can be expressed distinctively as

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.

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.

Religious Education in Church Schools should help 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 entirely appropriate and 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 RE in Church Schools should 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.

Distinctive content of the Religious Education Curriculum in a Church School:

- 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 parish 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.
- a sacred space that can be used as a focus for prayer and silent reflection.

Religious Education in Church Schools should enable:

- 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 of other faiths 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 have a safe place to explore the ultimate questions and challenges of life in society today.

The significant contribution RE makes to pupils' 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.

SEND provision:

All pupils, regardless of their special educational need or disability participate in RE lessons unless the parent/carer has asked for them to be withdrawn from the lesson.

In order to support their inclusion, we can deploy additional adult support into the lesson if needed, pupils can be paired up with a peer to support them, and the learning objective and outcome can be differentiated to enable them to access the lesson too. RE can be taught in a cross-curricular manner using art, music etc which allows and caters for differing and more practical learning styles of pupils.

Resources:

Resources to support the teaching of RE are kept in the Learning Mentor's room in clearly marked cupboards.

The RE lead has a copy of the Blackburn Diocese CD – ROM containing planning units. All units are available electronically on the teacher only shared drive. The "Understanding Christianity" file will be held centrally with the RE Lead. Relevant sections will be handed to staff when needed to complement, extend and support further teaching and learning in specific units of the RE scheme.

Assessment and record keeping:

Each pupil will have a small grid (copied from the school SOW) placed in their book at the start of a unit. Staff to tick/highlight learning objectives/statements (knowledge and skills) in assessment grids in exercise books to show the assessment statement has been covered. Staff to ascertain using knowledge of children's class work and responses or work included in their own RE books whether a child has met each objective. Staff to reference SB to show if an objective/statement has been covered through scrapbook work. In addition to this, staff will place pupil names on any school assessment records to track children who are broadly expected or below in RE.

Parental Right of Withdrawal from Religious Education

Parents may withdraw their children from Religious Education as they may in any school. We have adopted our statement of withdrawal from The Church of England Board of Education and the Methodist Church:

‘The Worship and Religious Education provided by the school is in accordance with the Church of England or Methodist Church Foundation. 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 or Methodist Church 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.’

If such a request for withdrawal is made, the Headteacher should explore the reasons for the request and seek to arrive at an accommodation. It may be that only some elements of Religious Education or Worship are objected to.

RE lead: Mrs H Abela

Head Teacher: Mrs J Parker

Date: September 2025

Date of review: September 2026