

## **Religious Education – Intent, Implementation and Impact.**

### **Intent**

At St John's we work hard, aim high and are good friends to each other. Our Christian school is a happy, caring place where learning together is meaningful, inclusive and rooted in our vision: *'Love, Learn, Flourish'*. Religious Education at St John's plays a central role in enabling children to grow in wisdom, hope and dignity. Through the Lancashire RE Syllabus 2021 and our Collective Worship programme, we nurture pupils' understanding of Christianity and a wide range of world faiths, helping them develop respect, curiosity and a sense of identity within a diverse world.

Our RE curriculum aims to deepen children's knowledge of religious and non-religious worldviews and support them in exploring big questions about life, belief and values. We encourage pupils to reflect on their own experiences and the experiences of others, building empathy, tolerance and moral understanding.

We are committed to ensuring that all pupils, including those with SEND, can fully access and engage with RE. We provide inclusive strategies such as visual scaffolds, simplified texts, chunked instructions, sensory stimuli, communication support and alternative ways to record learning (oral responses, drawings, digital tools, symbols). Our aim is that every child can meaningfully explore religious concepts and express their thinking in ways that showcase their strengths.

The curriculum is carefully sequenced to build pupils' knowledge and understanding over time. Pupils encounter Christianity throughout their journey at St John's, while also engaging with Islam, Judaism, Hinduism and non-religious worldviews. Lessons encourage children to reflect, question, discuss and interpret, empowering them to become thoughtful, respectful and open-minded members of their community. Opportunities for spiritual development are woven through RE lessons, Collective Worship, visits to places of worship and links with St John's Church.

### **Implementation**

RE at St John's is led by the RE Subject Lead, who oversees planning, training, monitoring and evaluation to ensure a high-quality and inclusive curriculum. The Lancashire RE Syllabus 2021 provides a robust structure for our long-term and medium-term planning, ensuring progression in knowledge, concepts and skills. Units are sequenced so pupils revisit key ideas, deepening understanding and broadening perspectives as they move through school.

Lessons combine knowledge-rich teaching with opportunities for discussion, enquiry, reflection and creative expression. Teachers use engaging stimuli such as artefacts, videos, stories, role play and first-hand accounts. Inclusive strategies are central to lesson design:

- Visuals, symbols and word banks support understanding of key vocabulary and concepts.
- Chunked explanations and repetition of key ideas help pupils with processing difficulties.
- Multi-sensory experiences, such as handling artefacts or exploring symbolic objects, support pupils who learn best through practical engagement.
- Adaptive tools and assistive technology ensure equitable access to recording tasks.
- Structured sentence starters, communication boards, and adult modelling support pupils who find verbal expression challenging.

We provide pre-teaching of vocabulary for pupils who need this, alongside targeted adult support and differentiated tasks. Learning is captured in a variety of ways including journals, floor books, photographs, mind maps, drama, and oral presentations—ensuring that pupils with SEND can demonstrate their understanding through their preferred method of communication.

Collective Worship complements and enriches RE by reinforcing Christian values, celebrating diversity, and offering opportunities for spiritual reflection. Visits to St John's Church and other places of worship, as well as visits from faith leaders and community representatives, enhance cultural understanding and give children real-world insight into religious belief and practice.

### **Impact**

*Our RE curriculum is high quality, progressive and inclusive, enabling pupils to develop deepening knowledge of Christianity and other world faiths while also exploring questions of meaning, purpose and values. The impact of effective RE teaching is visible in pupils' respectful attitudes, their ability to talk confidently about religious concepts, and their understanding of the diversity within and between faith communities.*

*Progress is measured against the expectations of the Lancashire RE Syllabus 2021, but also takes into account pupils' individual starting points. Pupils with SEND demonstrate progress through personalised outcomes, alternative recording methods and evidence of increasing engagement, understanding and participation.*

*Learning environments across school reflect the importance of RE, with key vocabulary, visuals and reflective prompts displayed to support all learners. Monitoring shows the consistent use of inclusive strategies such as visual scaffolds, adapted tasks, and assistive technology to remove barriers to learning.*

*Pupils at St John's leave school with:*

- *A secure understanding of a range of religions and worldviews.*
- *The ability to ask thoughtful questions and express personal ideas with respect.*
- *An appreciation for diversity and a strong sense of moral responsibility.*
- *Skills in reasoning, interpreting and reflecting—rooted in Christian values but open to the wider world.*

*Ultimately, the impact of our RE curriculum is seen in the way pupils live out our school vision, 'Love, Learn, Flourish', showing kindness, respect, curiosity and compassion both within school and beyond.*