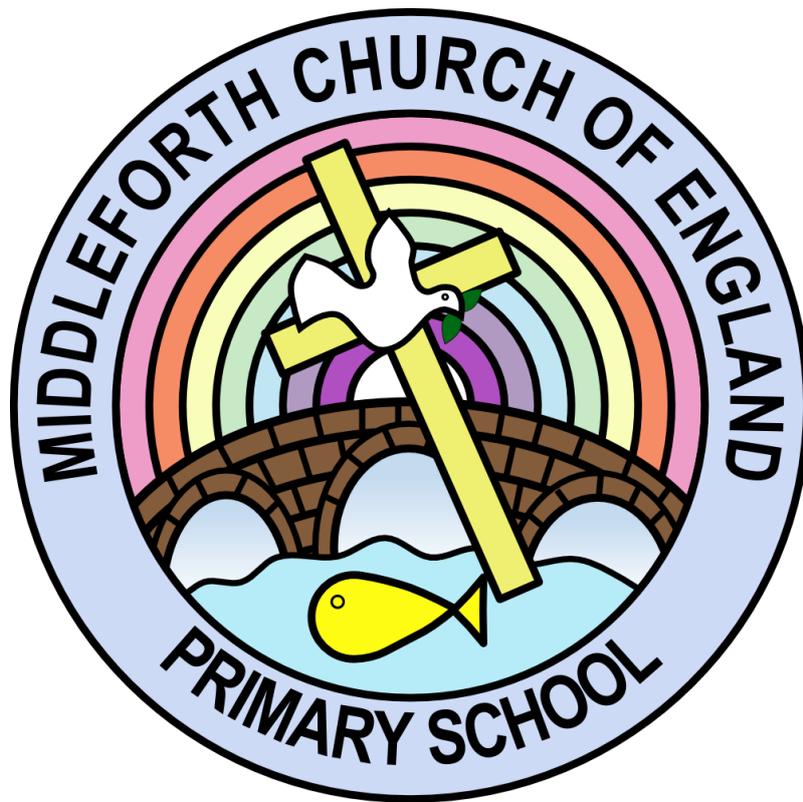


# Middlefirth C of E Primary School



## Religious Education Policy

Date of Policy: March 2020

Review Date: March 2022

**Mission Statement**  
**“Let your light shine”**  
Matthew 5:16

**We seek to promote:**  
**Faith**  
**Resilience**  
**Independence**  
**Curiosity**  
**Communication**  
**Aspiration**

At Middleforth Church of England Primary School we believe that the teaching of Religious Education plays a vital role in the development of the whole child within the context of a Christian family, contributing towards their spiritual, moral and cultural awareness in terms of knowledge, skills and understanding.

**Vision Statement:**

Middleforth Church of England Primary School is a distinctively inclusive and Christian school serving the local community of Penwortham. Governors and staff share the same ambition for all pupils, that they will succeed and flourish while they are at school. This is reflected in our vision statement, ‘Let your light shine’, Matthew 5:16 for Jesus, ourselves and the wider community.

Faith is fully embedded into our classrooms. The Christian values of Respect, Love, Courage, Forgiveness, Hope and Friendship are the golden threads that weave their way through the fabric of our daily lives.

**Aims:**

Our aim is that pupils will be introduced to the key beliefs and aspects of the Christian faith and helped to explore them. These would include:

- That they are loved by God and part of God’s family
- Learn how to pray
- Understand the “BIG story” of salvation fulfilled by Jesus Christ
- Explore Christian and other faiths
- Be guided by the moral compass of our Gospel Values
- Love their neighbour and seek to serve them and the wider community

**Mission and aims:**

Middleforth Church of England Primary School preserves and develops its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church and Blackburn Diocese. Our school is a special place full of learning, laughter and friendship and where all children are happy feel safe and are valued.

At Middleforth, we provide the best primary education in a stimulating environment. The school develops a love of learning inspired by quality teaching, building and developing upon individual strengths and talents.

We believe every child is entitled to enjoy his or her childhood. We teach the importance of moral Christian values and provide the foundation for lifelong friendships. Children educated at Middleforth are tolerant, committed and confident. The School works in close partnership with St. Leonards Church and Community to develop citizens who will lead happy and rewarding lives.

Our aims at Middleforth Church of England Primary School are:

- That school will be a place of optimism and hope, where new technology makes an impact.
- We will continually seek improvement and expect high standards.
- The curriculum provided will be well balanced, innovative and creative where children will achieve their full potential.
- We will provide a learning environment at the heart of the community endeavouring to build learning partnerships with all associated with school.
- Pupils will have the opportunity to develop independent learning skills through self-supported study using state of the art ICT to equip students with the skills for citizens ready to face the challenges of the next century.
- That all members of the Middleforth family feel valued as an individual.
- Where success is celebrated and pupils are happy in a safe, caring environment.
- We will have high expectations and standards of behaviour.
- We will respect each other regardless of ethnicity, religion or barrier to learning.
- We will provide the opportunity for prayer, relaxation, reflection and the enrichment of human spirit.
- We will work in partnership with parents to enable them to have an active role in their children's learning and make full use of external agencies and extended services to ensure all children and their families has access to advice and practical support where needed.

### **Mission statement for Religious Education:**

At Middleforth Church of England Primary School the educational process is rooted in the living faith of the school. Religious Education has an important role in reflecting and conveying the distinctively Christian character of the school always aiming for the highest standard, always striving for excellence, reflecting the school's distinctive Christian character. Religious education is the vehicle for living the vision of our Church school and should aim to:

- Ensure that the children are ASKING, INVESTIGATING and UNDERSTANDING
- Provoke religious thinking and give the children opportunity to reflect
- Enable the children to have informed conversations about religious beliefs and practices to connect, critically reflect upon, evaluate and apply their learning to their own growing understanding and respect of religion and belief (Christian and Non-Christian), of themselves, the world and human experience
- Widen understanding of Christianity as a living world faith
- Develop understanding of Christian values and how to live by these through words and actions at Middleforth Church of England Primary School.

### **Religious Education Syllabus for Church of England Schools:**

Middleforth Church of England Primary School is a voluntary controlled school but we ensure the management of Religious Education is a distinctive role of the Governors and Head Teacher. Religious Education is provided in accordance with the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England. The Governing Body as a whole is responsible for determining the nature of Religious Education provided in its school.

As a Voluntary Controlled School Middleforth Church of England Primary School adopt the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education Syllabus for Religious Education which fulfils all legal requirements and the Religious Education Statement of Entitlement from the Church of England Education Office 2016, see separate appendix. The core Syllabus is based on Blackburn Diocesan's 'Questful RE Creative and Challenging' revised 2017 and supported by the 'Understanding Christianity' resource. Although Religious Education and Collective Worship naturally compliment and enrich one another they are managed separately. The Religious Education policy should be read alongside the schools Worship policy.

At Middleforth Church of England Primary School the pupils and their families can expect a religious education curriculum that is rich and varied, enabling learners to acquire a thorough knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith. We provide a wide range of opportunities for learners to understand and to make links between the beliefs, practices and value systems of the range of faiths and world views studied. We use an investigative, questioning approach that engages with, for example biblical text, and helps develop religious and theological literacy. There are strong links with the Christian values of the school and spiritual, moral, social and cultural development are intrinsic to the Religious Education curriculum and should have a significant impact on learners. Based on the Religious Education Statement of Entitlement: The Church of England Education Office 2016:

*“Christianity should be the majority study in RE in every school. In Church schools that should be clearly adhered to. KS 1 – 3 at least 2/3rds of RE curriculum is to be Christianity. Sufficient dedicated curriculum time, meeting explicitly RE objectives, however organised, should be committed to the delivery of RE. This should aim to be close to 10% but must be no less than 5%.”*

RE Statement of Entitlement: The Church of England Education Office 2016

At Middleforth Church of England Primary school an average of one hour per week of curriculum time will be devoted to the teaching of Religious Education. This will include distinct syllabus lessons plus teaching related to the Christian values. As we begin to embed the teaching of Religious Education across the curriculum there will be cross curricular links. Of this curricular time 80% will be devoted to the Christian faith and 20% to Non-Christian Faiths.

### **The aims of Religious Education in Church Schools are:**

- 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 and understand about other major world religions and world views, their impact on society, culture and the wider world, enabling pupils to express ideas and insights.
- To contribute to the development of pupils' own spiritual/philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own beliefs and values.

## **Religious Education Statement of Entitlement: The Church of England Education Office 2016:**

Appropriate to age at the end of their education in Church schools the expectation is that all pupils are religiously literate and, as a minimum, pupils are able to:

- Give a theologically informed and thoughtful account of Christianity as a living and diverse faith.
- Show an informed and respectful attitude to religions and world views in their search for God and meaning.
- Engage in meaningful and informed dialogue with those of other faiths and none.
- Reflect critically and responsibly on their own spiritual, philosophical and ethical convictions.

This can be expressed in more detail and distinctively as:

- 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. 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 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.

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.

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 from other faith backgrounds 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 to have a safe place to explore the ultimate questions and challenges of life in today's society.

The teaching of Religious Education, alongside the Worship themes, at Middleforth Church of England Primary School have a significant contribution to pupils' Spiritual, Moral Social and Cultural development. Teachers ensure the Christian Values taught in Religious Education permeate throughout all other areas of the curriculum and are revisited in relation to learning, expectations of behaviour and relationships between all members of the school family.

#### **Meeting the individual needs of pupils – SEN Provision:**

We will aim to ensure that the teaching of Religious Education is accessible to all pupils and provide additional support through;

- Differentiated curriculum
- Appropriate resources
- Teaching assistant support
- Small group support
- Appropriate teaching methods e.g. visual, auditory, kinaesthetic approaches

#### **The contribution of Religious Education to Christian and British values at Middleforth Church of England Primary School:**

The teaching of Religious Education positively drives the promotion of the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

#### **Assessment and record keeping:**

Primary Assessment and recording is in accordance with guidance given in the BDBE RE Syllabus, Questful RE and based on the ladder of expectation and achievement along with the guidelines for end of key stage expectations. Teachers use an assessment and recording sheet at the end of each unit. It is important that children are provided with a variety of opportunities to record their work. Assessment and recording will include;

- Pupil discussion and questioning conversations
- Pupil discussion about their recorded work
- Verbal / written feedback relevant to the RE learning objective Comments
- Work recorded on the classes SeeSaw account
- Internal moderation of work using the ladder of expectation of achievement in RE.
- Class and whole school displays.

## **Resources**

The core syllabus of 'Questful RE Creative and Challenging' (revised 2017) will be supported with a wide range of resources, such as Understanding Christianity.

## **Parental Rights of Withdrawal in a Voluntary Aided School**

The Worship and Religious Education provided by Middleforth Church of England Primary School is in accordance with guidance provided by the Church of England. 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 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 Head Teacher will 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.

Parents may request the governing board to provide Religious Education for their children according to the locally Agreed Syllabus. This can only be requested when parents cannot, with reasonable convenience, arrange for their children to attend another school where Religious Education is provided according to the locally Agreed Syllabus. The governing board should make provision unless the circumstances make it unreasonable to do so. Should the governing board be unable to make such arrangements for Religious Education to be delivered according to the Agreed Syllabus, the responsibility for doing so then falls on the Local Authority. The Local Authority may decide that such a request for separate Religious Education is unreasonable and the parental request then fails.

## **Review of Policy:**

This policy will be reviewed on a two-year rolling cycle by the Governing Body and Head Teacher.