



THE BLUE SCHOOL

CHURCH OF ENGLAND

*Whatever you do in word or deed,
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

Colossians 3:17

Policy:	Religious Education and Religious Literacy
Leaders:	H Stallwood / N Wilkinson
Date Agreed:	Summer 2024
Date for next review:	Summer 2026

This policy involves all members of our community; pupils, staff, volunteers, parents and carers, governors, visitors to the school, and other external participants in school activities.

“At The Blue School, children don’t just learn, they flourish.”

Our Christian Vision For All

Whatever you do in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3:17

**Nurturing wisdom, hope and dignity in everyone, to
build Christian community**

*As one of the oldest Church of England schools in the country, we have a proud heritage of providing a distinctive Christian education that continues to shape young lives for the future. Our school vision, rooted in **Colossians 3:17**, “**Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him,**” guides every aspect of school life.*

Through our vision our community is guided to:

Speak – words of wisdom and hope

Act – with dignity and respect

Be thankful – as one community, from the heart

***The Blue School is a **community** flourishing
through **wisdom**, **hope** and **dignity** giving thanks
to God in all that we do.***

Hope	Dignity	Wisdom	Community
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At The Blue School we have the Lord Jesus at the heart of all we do, we celebrate the unique God given gifts of every individual (*James 1:17*). Rooted in Christian **hope**, **dignity** and **wisdom**, pupils flourish in faith, excel academically and are championed to follow their creative and physical pursuits; equipping all children to lead full and happy lives in the knowingness that God has a plan of hope and prosperity for all futures (*Jeremiah 29:11*). Through Jesus' teachings we embrace our mission and inspire all children to **reach beyond their potential and give thanks to God in all that they do**; to be courageous advocates caring for others and their world; to be compassionate citizens and thrive as part of one global Christian **community**.

Our Values

Our Christian values are at the heart of daily school life. They are rooted in our vision; their ethos enhances our daily collective worship and informs all that we do as a Church of England school. Our school values are underpinned by the Church of England's Vision for Education.

Hope	Dignity	Wisdom	Community
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Hope gives us a mission to accomplish and speaks to tomorrow being better than today.

Dignity gives us a culture to embrace and speaks to treating everyone as precious in the sight of God.

Wisdom gives us a place to grow and speaks to knowing how to make a positive difference.

Community gives us people to enjoy and speaks to living and loving well, together.

Hope	Dignity	Wisdom	Community
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Religious Education Introduction

At The Blue School, where children come from all faiths and none, religious education enables every child to flourish and to live life in all its fullness - *John 10:10*.

RE helps to educate dignity, respect and courageous advocacy, encouraging all to live well together. Religious education is a highly valued academic subject that enables an understanding of how religion and beliefs affect our lives. At the heart of RE at The Blue School, is the teaching of Christianity and through our sequenced curriculum children also learn about other faiths and worldviews, preparing children for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences in modern society.

Aims and Objectives

At our school, religious education supports and strengthens our vision, ethos and values that are at the heart of what we do in every aspect of school life. Throughout their time at The Blue School, we seek to develop every child spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually. This aim is embedded in our religious education curriculum. As a Church of England primary school, we follow the agreed syllabus provided by the London Diocesan Board for Schools.

Our Religious Education curriculum has the following aims:

- To help children grow in their spiritual development
- To help children develop a knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith and the relevance of its teachings and practices in our everyday lives
- To help children consider and express their own values and commitments
- To enable children to study other world religions, and in order to gain a knowledge of and develop a sensitivity to the values and commitments that other people have
- To help children gain skills and attitudes that will enhance their personal social, spiritual and moral development.

Our Religious Education curriculum has the following objectives

- To give time to the children to reflect on feelings, relationships, issues and dilemmas they may encounter
- To enable the children to see the value and strength of belonging to a wider Christian family
- To develop a sense of awe and wonder throughout our world
- To give children the experience, language and opportunity that will help them ask and answer searching questions and so develop their beliefs
- To develop an awareness of the way faith can be expressed e.g. through language, art, drama and music and allow the children to develop these approaches

Hope	Dignity	Wisdom	Community
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- To develop the children's knowledge of Christian principles, traditions and rituals
- To familiarise the children with stories contained in the Bible and other sacred books and to consider their relevance to daily life
- To introduce key figures in world religions and the people who have responded to their teaching
- To help children develop the self-confidence to share their beliefs and ideas about religion
- To develop the ability to listen to others and show respect for another person's belief.
- To encourage children to recognise their own value and importance as individuals who can give as well as receive
- To allow children to respond to moral issues.
- To follow a set scheme of work which will ensure progression and continuity throughout the school

While remaining loyal to our Christian foundation, we also strive to develop an accurate and sympathetic understanding of the other major faiths by helping our children to:

- Learn about other faiths and their beliefs, traditions, practices and value systems and from other faiths through encounter (where possible) and dialogue
- Recognise and respect people of all faiths in their search for their god/s
- Develop an understanding of what it means to different people to be committed to a religious tradition and to appreciate, and respect, the cultural differences in Britain today.
- 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
- Recognise the common human quest for justice, peace and love
- Have respect for other people's views and celebrate the diversity in society

Legal Position of Religious Education

Our syllabus is in line with the 'Statement of Entitlement' which says:

RE must have a very high profile within the church school curriculum and learning activities should provide fully for the needs of all learners. Learners should be inspired by the subject and develop a wide range of higher-level skills such as enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and reflection to deepen their understanding of the impact of religion on the world.

Sufficient dedicated curriculum time, meeting explicitly religious education objectives, however organised, should be committed to the delivery of religious education. This should aim to be close to 10% but must be no less than 5%. The religious education entitlement is totally separate from requirements for Collective Worship.

Parents/carers have a legal right to withdraw their children from Religious Education lessons, but as religious education is central to the life and identity of The Blue School CofE Primary School, we ask parents/carers to discuss any reasons they might have for doing this, with the Headteacher.

Curriculum Organisation

Following advice given from the LDBS, the curriculum framework has been set out, with topics placed appropriately in year groups. Teachers implement units and are encouraged to think creatively in their delivery. The units provide clear learning intentions, activities and lesson plans along with lists of suggested resources and links with up-to-date and age-appropriate internet resources to enhance the teaching. Teachers are able to edit the suggested content within each lesson plan to ensure it is appropriate, meaningful and specific to their class.

Teaching and Learning

In addition to weekly Religious Education lessons, every year group also takes part in dedicated Religious Literacy sessions each week.

Religious Literacy

Religious literacy supports children to understand themselves and one another, and the world in which we live. Religious literacy interconnects religious text, beliefs and practices with the world of the children, by viewing religion through three disciplines, [theology](#), [philosophy](#), and [humans and social sciences](#). It promises a richer, deeper, wiser understanding of Christianity for both Christians and non-Christians, and an exploration of learning for all children who through delving deeper into Biblical text, can comprehend the meaning behind the written word.

Aims of Religious Literacy

- To enable children to know about and understand Christianity as a living world faith by exploring core theological, philosophical and sociological concepts

- To enable children to develop knowledge and skills in making sense of biblical texts and other world faith stories, by understanding their impact in the lives of believers
- To develop children's abilities to connect, critically reflect upon, evaluate and apply their learning to their own growing understanding of Christianity and other world faiths; of religion and belief more widely; of themselves; the world and human experiences

Monitoring and Assessment

The monitoring of RE is planned as part of the School's Improvement plan and is scheduled on the school's Quality Cycle. The SLT supports the RE lead who implements assessment and deadlines for teachers to submit data.

The Governing Body monitors the Religious Education curriculum through Governor visits and they provide a detailed summary report from each visit to the Full Governing Board.

Teachers summarise pupils' attainment in RE at the end of each term using the LDBS assessment scheme which measures progress towards key questions for each year group. Teachers report to parents on pupils' progress in end of year annual reports.

At The Blue School we recognise that achievement in RE should equal or be better than comparable subjects. We want all pupils to develop high levels of religious literacy as well as a deep understanding of Christianity and other religions and world views.

To assess pupils' attainment and progress in RE, teachers make a judgement for each pupil using the criteria provided by the LDBS scheme of work. Pupils' work is monitored, evaluated and compared within year groups and across key stages for progression and consistency in judgments.

Pupils are assessed in RE each half term. Assessment is recorded termly by the class teachers onto the school's MIS (Arbor) and is monitored by the RE Leader. During termly pupil progress meetings, the RE lead meets with class teachers to discuss the progress of children in RE.

Parents are informed of each pupil's progress during parent meetings and in the end-of-year reports to parents in the Summer term.

Pupil's work is marked in line with the school's Marking and Feedback policy, although not all work will be formally recorded. A Big Book book is also kept to record curriculum and spiritual opportunities for the class. This book includes photos, annotations and pupil voice where possible.

Prayer Tables, Classroom and Corridor Displays

Every classroom has a designated RE display as well as a prayer table. Resources for each RE unit are stored in a central resource area. Religious Education Resource boxes containing artefacts and other topic materials are updated regularly.

Each class corridor display links with a Biblical Quote.
The RE lead regularly updates the RE board in the corridor in the main school.

Prayer Space

A designated prayer space is available for all children in the school to access. This is located in the main building of the school. The Faith Ambassadors organise and promote the availability of the room to their peers. Religious texts and artefacts from all world religions are available in the room to allow children from all faiths or none, to use the space as a place for quiet reflection or the opportunity to spend some time with God.

Subject Leadership

The RE Subject Leader works closely with the SLT to improve and enhance the Religious Education curriculum in school.

The subject lead is responsible for:

- working alongside the Mission lead to promote the Christian vision, ethos and values of the school
- the development and monitoring of the RE Curriculum
- providing teachers with support and advice
- updating the school's RE & RL policy and RE scheme of work, and subject focus (book looks / pupil interview etc) in line with the Quality Cycle
- leading termly in-service training activities supporting staff in the classroom;
- ordering resources; coordinating staff requests for resources and monitoring and maintaining the condition and availability of resources
- subject monitoring – books, planning scrutiny, lesson observations/ drop-ins, pupil voice interviews
- leading the Faith Ambassadors to promote pupil voice and pupil representation in RE across the school
- working with the Mission lead to develop the Spirituality of the school community

- reporting updates to and providing information on the RE curriculum to the RE link Governors

A SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspection takes place every five years, and includes inspection and reporting on the effectiveness of Religious Education in the school.

Safeguarding and Equal Opportunities

The Blue School will promote equality of opportunity for students and staff from all social, cultural and economic backgrounds and ensure freedom from discrimination on the basis of membership of any group, including gender, sexual orientation, family circumstances, ethnic or national origin, disability (physical, learning difficulties or emotional and mental), religious or political beliefs.

The Blue School aims to:

- Provide equal opportunity for all
- To foster good relations, and create effective partnership with all sections of the community
- To take no action which discriminates unlawfully in service delivery, commissioning and employment
- To provide an environment free from fear and discrimination, where diversity, respect and dignity are valued.

All aspects of Safeguarding will be embedded into the life of the school and be adhered to and be the responsibility of all staff.

This policy will be ratified by the Full Governing Body every and reviewed every 2 years.