



**ST. HILD'S
CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL**

Policy Document

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

At St. Hild's Church of England School we aim to serve our community by providing high quality education in a Christian context. We are a comprehensive school guaranteeing equal opportunities, a responsive curriculum and a supportive community. We expect to find God at work in our school.

The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

"I have come that they may have life in all its fullness (John 10:10)"

Our school aim sets out our beliefs. We base this on Jesus' words in John – "I came that they may have life, in all its fullness". This is so for everyone in our community: everyone must be enabled to realise their potential. We believe that every human being has an entitlement to personal, social and intellectual development and must be given an opportunity to achieve his/her potential in learning and that every human being is unique in terms of characteristics, interests, abilities, motivation and learning needs.

We aim to develop self-esteem, model conflict resolution and are committed to justice and compassion. Mutual respect and trust are central to our community, and we expect high standards in all aspects of school life. This statement is based on these key principles and values.

Religious Education at St Hild's Church of England School

Religious Education at St Hild's Church of England School reflects the School Ethos Statement, and plays a vital role in supporting the development of moral values and spiritual ethos, in accordance with Christian principles and values. We seek to promote an open and honest approach to the beliefs which exist in the modern world. The spiritual lives of our pupils are taken seriously; the religious arrangements are aimed at helping to prepare pupils for the very complex moral issues they will have to face as responsible adults in a rapidly changing world.

This policy reflects *Religious Education in Church of England Schools: A Statement of Entitlement from the Board of Education/National Society Council* and also has regard to, *Religious Education in English Schools: Non-Statutory Guidance 2010 (Department for Children, Schools and families)*

The Legal Position of Religious Education in the Curriculum

The legal requirements for teaching Religious Education are set out in the Education Act 1996 and the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. Religious Education is a statutory subject, which is an entitlement for all pupils. As a Church of England School, the content of the Religious Education curriculum reflects our Christian Ethos.

The Aims of Religious Education at St Hild's Church of England School:

- To enable pupils to encounter Christianity as the religion that shaped British culture and heritage, and influences the lives of millions of people today
- To enable pupils to learn about the other major religions, their impact on culture and politics, art and history, and on the lives of their adherents

- To develop an understanding of religious faith as the search for and expression of truth
- To contribute to the development of pupils' own spiritual/philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own faith and beliefs
- To provoke challenging questions
- To enable pupils to build their sense of identity and belonging
- To teach pupils to develop respect for others
- To prompt pupils to consider their responsibilities as citizens.

Teaching of Religious Education

RE teaching will be in line with the recommendations of the Statement of Entitlement for Church Schools. Christianity will therefore be the majority study in RE, as understanding Christianity as a living religion is the foundation of Religious Education in Church Schools. This will draw upon the richness and diversity of Christian experience in the breadth of its Anglican and other denominational forms, and in the variety of worldwide forms. The encounter will be an open one, which stems from and instils respect for different views and interpretations, and in which real dialogue and education takes place.

Church schools have a duty to foster an accurate and increasing understanding of world religions and world views. As a result, pupils will gain greater insight into the world in which they are growing up. They will also be able to appreciate the faith of others, and develop a deeper understanding of their beliefs and practices. These outcomes must contribute to harmonious relationships within and between communities, promoting social inclusion and combating prejudice.

Years	Content and Focus
7 & 8	Pupils follow the Durham Diocese agreed Syllabus. Christianity forms the majority of the course focus.
9 - 11	Pupils follow the specification for the AQA GCSE Religious Studies course. Through this course they develop an increasing understanding of the differences between Anglicans and other Christian

Skills

Religious Education teaching at St Hild's Church of England School seeks to develop the following skills:

- Sound judgement in moral and ethical questions
- Reflection, interpretation, synthesis and analysis
- Empathy, investigation and enquiry evaluation
- Discussion and debate.

Assessment and Recording of RE

This will be conducted in line with the whole school procedures on assessment recording and reporting.

Outcomes

The planned outcomes for pupils by the end of Year 11 are that they are able to:

- Think theologically and explore ultimate questions
- Reflect critically on the truth claims of Christian belief
- Develop the skills to analyse, interpret and apply Bible text
- Recognise that faith is a particular way of understanding and responding to God and the world
- Analyse and explain the varied nature and traditions of the Christian community
- Make a well informed response to Christianity
- Respect those of all faiths in their search for God
- Reflect critically on areas of shared belief and practice between different faiths
- Enrich and expand their understanding of truth
- Reflect critically and express their views on the human quest and destiny

Contribution to SMSC Development

Religious Education plays an important part of the wider programme of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development:

- **Spiritual** - widening pupils' vision of themselves and their own experience, within the context of a growing awareness and understanding of God
- **Moral** - helping each pupil develop their own informed values
- **Social** - helping pupils understand some major forces shaping the values in our society
- **Cultural** - aiding pupils in exploring aspects of their own cultural heritage, and in developing positive attitudes towards diversity

British Values

RE makes an important contribution to a school's duty to promote British Values. It provides a key context to develop young people's understanding and appreciation of diversity, to promote shared values, and to challenge racism and discrimination. RE subject matter gives particular opportunities to promote an ethos of respect for others, challenge stereotypes and build understanding of other cultures and beliefs. This contributes to promoting a positive and inclusive school ethos that champions democratic values and human rights.

Religious Education Worship Policy

Linked to

- **Equality in Employment Policy**
- **British Values Statement**
- **Ethos Statement**
- **Curriculum Statement**
- **Collective Worship Policy**

Signed(Headteacher)

Signed (Chair of Governors)

Review Date : March 2018

