

Flookburgh CofE Primary School



Together, we believe, anything is possible

Mission Statement

‘Together, we believe, anything is possible’

Religious Education Policy

Our Vision Statement is based on;

Matthew 19:26: ‘...With God all things are possible’ :

To believe and trust our actions will inspire our community to be champions of their own destiny knowing that they have been empowered by God to make a positive difference for their own futures and for future generations to come.

Approved by ¹	
Name:	Mrs Gill Pett
Position:	Head teacher
Signed:	
Date:	
Proposed review date ² :	March 2025

Our vision for Religious Education (RE)

At this school, RE expresses and strengthens our vision, ethos and values which are at the heart of all we aim to achieve in every aspect of school life that offers human flourishing for all. The importance placed on the development of the whole child spiritually, morally, culturally and intellectually is reflected in the RE curriculum we teach.

In our school, where pupils and staff come from different faiths or no faith, RE is a highly valued academic subject that enables understanding of how religion and beliefs affect our everyday lives, whether we are aware of it or not. There is a *'commitment to a generous hospitality, being true to our underpinning faith but, with a deep respect for the integrity of other religious traditions (and worldviews) and for the freedom of each person.'* (Statement of Entitlement 2019)

RE provides opportunities for spiritual development and personal reflection. On a quest to discover more about religion and world views pupils will discover more about themselves.

As RE develops children's knowledge and understanding of the nature of religion and belief, it provokes challenging questions about meaning and purpose, truth and values, identity and belonging. Pupils will experience, explore and encounter a wide range of creative and challenging multi-sensory activities that will help them to discover the answers to fundamental questions such as these:

- Who am I and what does it mean to be me?
- In what ways do/can I relate to others?
- How/where can I encounter God?
- How can I make a positive contribution to the world in which I live?
- What values, attitudes, beliefs and behaviour are important to me?
- What does it mean to have faith?
- Who/what influences and inspires me?

Through an open investigative enquiry approach the pupils will be given the sense of being on a quest of discovery. A key feature of the syllabus is the large number of questions included in each unit. The purpose of these questions is to give pupils opportunity to investigate, reflect, evaluate and make meaning. In doing so they will discover more about themselves, their relationships with others, their relationship with the world around them and their relationship with God. The questions set the route through the curriculum content.

The curriculum content is a balance of the three essential disciplines of quality RE, Theology, Philosophy and Social Science. This means pupils will look at concepts through a theological lens, exploring what people of faith believe. Alongside this, pupils will explore questions and answers raised in relation to the lived reality and impact of religion and world views on people's lives. They will also think like philosophers, and be equipped with the skills that will enable them to make sense of life's experiences.

RE prepares children for citizenship in today's diverse society. It enables them to develop sensitivity to, and respect for others. Through authentic encounters with living faith communities, pupils will develop diversity dexterity and be equipped with the ability to hold an informed conversation about religious beliefs and practices.

Aims

The aims of religious education **in this school** are:

1. To enable pupils to know about and understand Christianity as a diverse global living faith through the exploration of core beliefs using an approach that critically engages with biblical text.
2. To enable pupils to gain knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews appreciating diversity, continuity and change within the religions and worldviews being studied.
3. To facilitate pupils to engage with challenging questions of meaning and purpose raised by human existence and experience.
4. To enable pupils to recognise the concept of religion and its continuing influence on Britain's cultural heritage and in the lives of individuals and societies in different times, cultures and places.
5. To encourage pupils to explore their own religious, spiritual and philosophical ways living, believing and thinking.

National Society RE Statement of Entitlement 2019

Legal Framework

As a Foundation school, we legally have to adopt the Cumbria Local Authority agreed syllabus

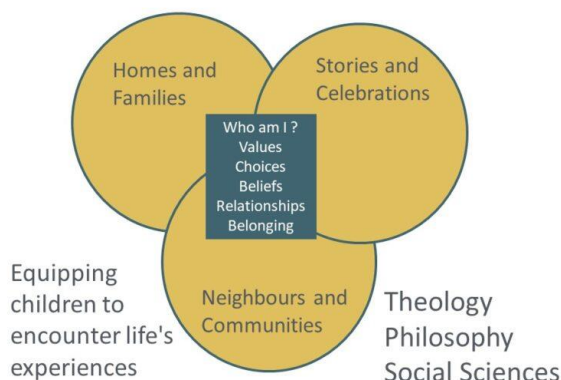
Parents have a legal right in accordance with the Education act 1996 to withdraw their children from RE lessons. As this subject is central to the life and identity of Flookburgh Church of England School, we ask parents to discuss with the head teacher any reasons they might have for doing this.

Teaching & Learning

We follow the 'Questful RE' syllabus which is a revision of the Blackburn Board of Education RE Syllabus, 2017. Through its re-design, the RE syllabus we follow in school is in line with current best practice and pedagogical strategies.

The Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education says,

'By embracing the explicit teaching of Christian concepts and God's big salvation story, it is hoped that the content of this syllabus will give pupils a deeper understanding of Christianity. In addition, pupils explore all major world faiths and discuss world views where appropriate.'



Whoever we are, wherever we live, whether we are a person of faith or not, we all have a view on the world. Nobody stands nowhere.'

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development/ British Values

- Religious Education is a key opportunity for children to develop morally, spiritually, socially and culturally. We invite children to reflect on their personal responses to issues, consider those of others, and appreciate that for some people belief in a spiritual dimension is important.
- We encourage children to consider the answers offered by faith groups to questions of meaning and purpose and problems within society as well as their own experiences
- Religious education also strongly supports the school's citizenship programme by introducing pupils to the significance of belonging to a community, the diversity of communities in the wider community, faith rules and their application to moral and ethical issues and cultural influences on religious practice. This includes work on British values (democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, respect and tolerance).

Assessment & Achievement

Appropriate to age, at the end of their education in our Church school the expectation is that all pupils are religiously literate and (as a minimum) they 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 worldviews in their search for God and meaning.
- Reflect critically and responsibly on their own spiritual, philosophical and ethical convictions
- Engage in meaningful and informed dialogue with those of other faiths and none.

National Society RE Statement of Entitlement 2019

Leadership & Management

The teaching, assessing and resourcing of Religious Education is managed by the RE subject leader, (in close collaboration with senior leaders) to ensure that the principles set out in the National Society's Statement of Entitlement (**see Appendix**) for RE are implemented.

The RE subject leader:

- Will support and regularly monitor the subject across the school
- Have an annual budget to do this
- Ensure that relevant and regular CPD is in place to keep his/her subject knowledge and expertise up to date and that staff receive appropriate training for the teaching and assessment of RE.
- Report regularly to the governing body so that everyone has an overview about progress and attainment in RE.
- Ensure RE provision reflects diocesan advice and recommendations

Inspection of RE as a Flookburgh Church of England School will be under the SIAMS inspection schedule and will look at both:

- effectiveness in ensuring that pupils flourish through the provision of high quality religious education
- effectiveness in ensuring that the subject expresses the school's Christian vision

Review

There will be a review every three years of this policy. Its effectiveness will be monitored by the RE leader, together with a senior leaders and governors. This will include discussions with other members of staff, observation of teaching and monitoring of children's work. Evaluation of teaching plans will form part of any review. The outcomes will influence the school development plan.

This guidance considers current requirements for RE in the SIAMS inspection schedule

Appendix 1

Religious Education in Church of England Schools

[A Statement of Entitlement](#)