



Policy for Religious Education

2023/2024

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Dent CE Voluntary Aided Primary School

Religious Education Policy

Approved by Governing Body: January 2023

Religious Education Co-ordinator: Mandy Robinson

This policy complies with: **The Church of England Education Office Statement of Entitlement for Religious Education in Church of England Schools** dated February 2019:

'Religious education in a Church school should enable every child to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10). It will help educate for dignity and respect encouraging all to live well together

Such an approach is offered through a commitment to 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 religious freedom of each person'

(The Church of England Education Office, Church of England Vision for Education: Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good. (The Church of England Education Office, 2016), available at <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/education-and-schools/vision-education>)

Religious Education at Dent CE Primary

Our Aim

At Dent CE Primary, our school vision for pupils is for them to be **Joyful & Equipped to Succeed & Serve**. Our Christian Values of **Wisdom, Trust, Service, Justice, Compassion, Endurance & Forgiveness** shape everything we do, and these values, together with our commitment to offering quality Religious Education, helps all pupils with their personal development and supports an understanding of the spiritual, moral, social, and cultural aspects of the world in which they live.

This document outlines the purpose, nature, and management of Religious Education at Dent CE Primary. The implementation of the Religious Education policy is the responsibility of all the staff working at our school.

The aims of Religious Education at Dent are for all children:

- to know about and understand Christianity as a diverse global faith through the exploration of core beliefs using an approach that includes opportunities for pupils to critically engage with biblical texts
- to gain knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews appreciating diversity, continuity and change within the religions and worldviews being studied
- to engage with challenging questions of meaning and purpose raised by human existence and experience
- 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
- to explore their own religious, spiritual and/or philosophical ways living, believing, and thinking.

(RE Statement of Entitlement: The Church of England Education Office 2019)

Our Curriculum for Religious Education

As a Voluntary Aided primary school, the Religious Education curriculum at Dent CE Primary meets the Church of England requirement and expectation that Christianity is the majority religion studied by our pupils, with 70% of Religious Education curriculum time allocated to Christianity.

In accordance with the guidance set out by the Church of England's Statement of Entitlement 2019, our Religious Education curriculum will 'engage and challenge pupils through an exploration of core concepts and questions'.

We do this through using a combination of Blackburn Diocese 'Questful RE' resources, which provide us with both Christian-specific units and Christian units that have links to other faiths and worldviews, and Curriculum Maestro faith-specific projects on Christianity, Sikhism, Hinduism, and Islam. Our teaching of faith-specific projects demonstrates our intent that, in addition to developing their understanding of the Christian faith and exploring how different aspects of the Christian faith link to other faiths and worldviews, the pupils at Dent will be able to engage with in-depth studies of other faiths, building on their skills and understanding of these faiths as they progress through the school.

Our carefully planned, sequenced, and resourced curriculum ensures knowledge and skills progression in Religious Education, and is intended to be hands-on and engaging, making use of visits and practical activities where possible.

Through Religious Education at Dent children will have opportunities to:

- learn about different faiths, beliefs, traditions, and practices, through encounter and dialogue
- recognise and respect those of all faiths and none
- recognise areas of common belief and practice between different faiths
- enrich and expand their understanding of truth
- enrich and expand their understanding of faith through examples of holy living in different traditions
- reflect theologically and explore the ultimate questions and challenges of life today
- reflect critically on the truth claims of different faiths and worldviews, and how this might be relevant for today
- understand and reflect upon different challenges faced by people of faith
- develop the skills to engage with and explore their understanding of the Bible and other sacred texts
- recognise that religious faith is based on shared commitments, beliefs, and values
- 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 different faith communities
- engage in thoughtful and respectful dialogue around all faiths and none
- become active local and global citizens
- understand how religious faith might sustain believers in difficult circumstances and in the face of opposition

(Adapted from the Blackburn Diocese Board of Education Religious Education Syllabus 2022)

Religious Education and Fundamental British Values

Through the teaching of Religious Education, we aim to promote the Fundamental British Values (FBV) of individual liberty; mutual respect; and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. We do this through developing pupils' knowledge and understanding of different faiths and worldviews; through engaging the pupils in respectful discussion and appreciation of a diverse range of beliefs, cultures, and traditions; and by providing pupils with opportunities to learn about different faiths and worldviews through educational trips and Interfaith events.

Monitoring Pupil Progress in Religious Education

Our Religious Education curriculum is delivered through carefully planned, resourced, and sequenced lessons and projects throughout the academic year. Individual pupil achievement is recorded on our Curriculum Maestro system, whereby teachers record a judgement of pupil attainment against identified learning objectives. Teachers will base their assessment of attainment through a combination of observations, questioning, discussion, and scrutiny of children's work. Teachers will record a termly summative assessment of pupil attainment on Curriculum Maestro and will report pupil progress to parents annually.

Parents are encouraged to contact their child's class teacher or the Head Teacher, Mr David Prescott, if they have any questions about their child's progress in Religious Education or have any questions relating to our Religious Education curriculum content.

SEND Provision

Our Religious Education curriculum is planned and delivered to accommodate and challenge pupils of all abilities and address a range of learning needs. Teachers of Religious Education will consider any additional needs of SEND pupils and will implement any relevant targets and support strategies as outlined on pupil Individual Education Plans.

Parental Rights of Withdrawal from Religious Education

The Religious Education provided by Dent CE Primary is in accordance with the Church of England Statement of Entitlement, 2019. This foundation is also reflected in the curriculum and the whole life of the school community, especially through our Christian Values of **Wisdom, Trust, Service, Justice, Compassion, Endurance & Forgiveness**. Since the conduct of the school reflects the Church of England ethos, removal of pupils from Religious Education (as parents are legally entitled to do) cannot insulate them from the religious life of the school.

Should any parent wish to withdraw their child from Religious Education at Dent, they are requested to contact the **Head Teacher, Mr David Prescott**.

Contact Information

Curriculum Co-ordinator: Mandy Robinson mandy@dent.cumbria.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Mr David Prescott head@dent.cumbria.sch.uk

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