

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

Start children off on the way they should go and even when they are old they will not turn from it. Proverbs 22:6

2025



This policy reflects our school vision: Newchurch St. Nicholas is a school which supports all of its community to thrive and flourish now and in the future. Everyone in the community will be empowered to recognise their God- given potential, a strong sense of personal identity, an unshakable notion of their self-worth and the impact of God’s love on them. This will be so deeply embedded in our pupils that it will stay with them all their lives.

At Newchurch St. Nicholas, we believe that delivering high quality Religious Education, plays a vital role in the development of the whole child.

We understand that RE is an important subject in itself, developing an individual’s knowledge, skills and understanding of religions which form part of contemporary society.

Teachers create a positive attitude to the teaching and learning of Religious Education. The children develop a sense of curiosity, wonder, awe and appreciation of cultural differences in today’s society.

At the centre of Religious Education at Newchurch St. Nicholas is the question: ‘What is it to be a human?’

Policy written by: Rachel Phelan

Policy date: November 2025

Next review: November 2026

Legal Requirements:

‘Religious Education must be taught to all registered pupils in maintained schools.’ Lancashire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2021. The Religious Education curriculum is set locally not nationally. In Lancashire, Religious Education must be provided in accordance with the current Lancashire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2021.

Religious education should be taught in accordance with the Lancashire Agreed Syllabus in all:

- a) Community schools and
 - b) Foundation and Voluntary controlled schools
- (SSFA 1998 paras 2(1) and 2(2) Schedule 19)

All children including those with SEND, access and engage with RE at Newchurch St. Nicholas Primary. The curriculum teaches children to articulate clearly and coherently their personal beliefs, ideas, values and experiences so that they can hold balanced and well-informed conversations about religions and worldviews whilst respecting the views of others.

Time Allocations

RE is a subject covered within the school curriculum and is distinct from collective worship which is not counted as curriculum time. RE takes up a minimum of 5% of the annual total curriculum time which is delivered in flexible and creative ways following the SACRE.

Our Christian Values

As a school we have agreed on the following Christian Values. Each value is shared and explored on a half termly basis:

- Friendship
- Trust
- Thankfulness
- Truthfulness
- Hope
- Forgiveness

The Place of RE in the Curriculum

‘Studying religious and non-religious worldviews is essential if pupils are to be well prepared for life in our increasingly diverse society. They need to acquire the necessary knowledge and skills to make sense of the complex world in which they live so that they can ‘respect religious and cultural differences and contribute to a cohesive and compassionate society’. (RE Review 2013).

RE is a valued subject which welcomes the difficult questions about life, beliefs, God, right and wrong and what it means to be human. It develops the children’s knowledge and understanding of faiths represented in their local community and the wider world. RE allows children to learn about and challenge their own and each other’s beliefs and values in an unbiased and safe environment.

Although RE is a distinct subject, it makes important contributions to all parts of the curriculum as well as developing higher order thinking skills, spiritual development and deep personal development.

The aims of Religious Education in Church Schools are (from RE Statement of Entitlement: The Church of England Education Office 2019):

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.

- 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 philosophical ways living, believing and thinking.

Planning

Planning for Religious Education follows the format which has been designed to incorporate the Lancashire Agreed Syllabus of Religious Education (2021).

Religious Education at Newchurch St. Nicholas reflects and represents the religions found within the school community. It will also take into account the religions found in the immediate geographical area surrounding the school (locally) and beyond (nationally and globally). The staff at Newchurch St. Nicholas plan and deliver three investigations of Christianity (God, Jesus and the Church) each year as well as one investigation of Islam and one investigation of Judaism. By the end of KS2, pupils also have opportunities to encounter Buddhism, Judaism, Sikh Dharma and non-religious world views such as Humanism. This model meets legal requirements and ensures that pupils have an in-depth progressive knowledge of three religions whilst also learning about the other principle religions represented in Great Britain. It is also essential that RE enables pupils to share their own beliefs, viewpoints and ideas without embarrassment or ridicule. Many pupils come from religious backgrounds, but others have no attachment to religious beliefs and practices.

Wherever possible, creative planning makes the RE experience more meaningful and real for the pupils at Newchurch St. Nicholas. However, where the links are tenuous RE will be taught as a stand-alone subject for a blocked amount of time. Planning and delivery are creative and a wide variety of approaches are used. The school is continuing to develop links with the wider community in order to incorporate a range of experiences to enhance the teaching and learning of different religions, including visits to sacred places and visitors into school.

Planning is shared and discussed with parents when requested.

British Values

At Newchurch St. Nicholas Primary School, we aim to promote the fundamental British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. The promotion of these values is embedded into the whole school curriculum and ethos, with the teaching of RE playing a key role through discussion, reflection and the sharing of experiences.

Assessment in KS1 and KS2

The key purpose of assessment is to:

- Evaluate how pupils are doing and ascertain standards of attainment.
- Enable teachers to adapt and adjust their teaching to ensure that learning supports progression.
- Evaluate the impact of the curriculum and the effectiveness of teaching.
- Provide information for parents about their child's strengths, next steps and achievements.

School submits their end of KS1 and KS2 data to

Withdrawal from Religious Education

It is recognised that parents have a right to withdraw their child from Religious Education in its entirety or in part. If a parent chooses to withdraw their child from Religious Education, arrangements are made for that child to be withdrawn during the lessons by the class teacher in consultation with the Head teacher.

Developing staff expertise and knowledge: confidence specialism professionalism

Pupils in Church schools are entitled to be taught by teachers who have a secure subject knowledge and are confident in helping them navigate and challenge cultural and religious stereotypes, prejudice and extremism. It should be a priority in Church schools to build up staff expertise in RE specifically, but not exclusively, working towards:

- at least one member of staff having RE qualifications or receiving specialist training.
- all staff teaching RE having access to subject specific professional development.
- all staff teaching RE knowing how to create and maintain classrooms in which academic rigour is balanced with respect for different personal beliefs and identities.
- all teaching staff and governors understanding of the distinctive role and purpose of RE within church schools.
- a governing body which is monitoring standards in RE effectively.

CPD (continuous professional development)

Attendance at courses is encouraged by SLT if funding is available. The RE subject leader will attend cluster meetings and RE hub meetings keep up to date with developments in teaching, learning and assessment. INSET meetings will be used to feedback to staff.

Resources

The RE leader is responsible for maintaining resources, monitoring their use and organising storage. Resource purchasing is in accordance with normal school procedures and is based upon the RE budget. The resources are stored in a central position in the school library and include artefacts, books, posters and other items which the school purchases in order to enhance the RE curriculum. All resources are respected and are organised in line with differing religious laws.

Responsibility for the policy

The R.E. subject leader, in consultation with the head teacher and Governing Body, have overall responsibility for the implementation and co-ordination of the policy. RE, in school, is delivered in accordance with the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England.

Whole school and class collective worship, aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to expose their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered; to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values and reinforce positive attitudes.

We have established close links with our parish, St. Nicholas' Church. School Services are held in the building, as are Christmas performances. The reverend, along with other members of the church, are regular visitors in school and are utilised to enhance RE teaching and learning across the school.

This policy is not a stand-alone policy and therefore should be read in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Worship Policy
- PSHE Policy
- Anti-bullying Policy
- SEN Policy
- Recording & Reporting Policy
- Marking & Feedback Policy

Religious Education Subject Leader: R. Phelan

Date: November 2025

Headteacher: G. Callaghan

Date: November 2026

Policy review date: November 2026