



**FARNWORTH CHURCH OF ENGLAND
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE)
POLICY**

Recommended by	Marcella Scully
Approved by	Curriculum and Standards Committee
Current Approval Date	9.2.17
Current Version Number	3.1
Review Date	Autumn 2019

CHANGE RECORD FORM

Version	Date of change	Date of release	Changed by	Reason for change
2.1	October 2014	29.1.15	M. Scully	Policy review
3.1	January 2017	10.2.17	M. Scully	To reflect changes to Halton agreed syllabus

Related Policies

- Collective Worship
- Equality and Diversity
- SENandD
- Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural Education Policy

Our Mission Statement

“And the child grew and became strong; He was full of wisdom and God’s blessings were upon Him.”

Luke Chapter 2 Verse 40

Farnworth Church of England Primary School will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church of Saint Luke’s Farnworth and Liverpool Diocese.

We are committed to meeting the needs of all our children by offering them learning experiences that are rich, varied, meaningful and appropriate.

We aim to foster the spiritual growth of our children by giving them the opportunity to experience Christian life and Worship whilst valuing the importance of Faith.



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Mission Statement for Religious Education

Farnworth Church of England Primary School is a Voluntary Controlled School and as such we foster strong links with our local community in working together to provide rich learning opportunities for our pupils. The ethos of our school provides a welcoming, secure and stimulating environment. It is our mission to provide a religious education programme that is inclusive and relevant to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all our children.

As a Church of England School, we are committed to providing a foundation for Christian learning and to introducing pupils to an understanding of the nature of Christian beliefs and practices.

How we promote Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development

Spiritual development within RE in our school enriches and encourages the pupils' discovery of God the creator, of their 'inmost' being and of the wonder of the environment. Moral development is based on the teaching of Jesus Christ, which offer pupils a secure foundation stone on which to make decisions and build their lives.

Social development enriches pupils' understanding of what it means to live in a Christian community where Jesus' command to love one another is put into practice. Cultural development provides opportunities to develop an understanding of Christianity as a worldwide, multi-cultural faith that has an impact on the lives of millions of people.

Aims and Objectives

- Bring the children to an understanding of Jesus as the Son Of God and his continuing influence in the world.
- Develop an understanding of Christian values and the importance of these to personal and social relationships.
- Introduce children to the Bible so that they become familiar with stories and teaching from the Old and New Testament.
- Provide opportunities to reflect and act on the messages for life contained in the Bible.
- Develop a progressive knowledge of major Christian festivals.
- Introduce pupils to other religions and faiths: Judaism, Islam and Hinduism.
- Recognise that we live in a multi-cultural society and foster respect for people holding beliefs different from our own.

Content and time allocation for RE

As a Church school we are committed to ensuring that Religious Education lies at the very heart of our curriculum. The Governors have agreed that the teaching of RE in Farnworth CE Primary School is organised as follows:

- Our school follows Farnworth CE Primary School Religious Education Syllabus, adhering to the requirements of the Halton Agreed RE Syllabus and incorporating the units provided by Liverpool Diocesan Board of Education and the Lancashire Agreed Syllabus.
- at least 5% of curriculum time is devoted to RE
- Christianity plays a central role in RE, taking up between two thirds and three quarters of the time available.

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- we understand that children learn in different ways and the teachers will use a variety of teaching strategies and encourage children to express their ideas and feelings through speaking, music, visual arts, drama, writing and ICT.
- progress in RE is reported through the annual end of year report.
- the syllabus maintains a balanced approach of Learning about and from Religion.

The curriculum for RE aims to ensure that all pupils:

A. Know about and understand a range of religions and worldviews, so that they can:

- describe, explain and analyse beliefs and practices, recognising the diversity which exists within and between communities and amongst individuals;
- identify, investigate and respond to questions posed, and responses offered by some of the sources of wisdom found in religions and worldviews;
- appreciate and appraise the nature, significance and impact of different ways of life and ways of expressing meaning.

B. Express ideas and insights about the nature, significance and impact of religions and worldviews, so that they can:

- explain reasonably their ideas about how beliefs, practices and forms of expression influence individuals and communities;
- express with increasing discernment their personal reflections and critical responses to questions and teachings about identity, diversity, meaning and value, including ethical issues;
- appreciate and appraise varied dimensions of religion or a worldview.

C. Gain and deploy the skills needed to engage seriously with religions and worldviews, so that they can:

- find out about and investigate key concepts and questions of belonging, meaning, purpose and truth, responding creatively;
- enquire into what enables different individuals and communities to live together respectfully for the wellbeing of all;
- articulate beliefs, values and commitments clearly in order to explain why they may be important in their own and other people’s lives.

The distinctive content of the Farnworth CE Primary School Religious Education Syllabus includes the children having the opportunity to:

- visits places of worship, especially the local parish Church and a Cathedral, to develop the understanding of the Church as a living community;
- visits, where appropriate, to other places of worship;
- welcome visitors from the local parish to share their experience of Christian belief and life;
- liaise with the local parish to enable these visits and links to occur;
- have the skills to confidently use religious language to express knowledge and opinions;
- utilise a well-used set of Bibles in language that can be understood by the learners and examples of Bibles and prayer books from a variety of contexts;
- access Christian artefacts that are used with care, respect and confidence;
- access a sacred space that can be used as a focus for prayer and silent reflection.

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It is entirely appropriate and necessary in today's world that children should be encouraged to foster a respect for the followers of the other world faiths. It is essential that this respect is based on an accurate and sympathetic understanding of those faiths.

Therefore RE in our school also helps pupils to:

- learn *about* other faiths, their beliefs, traditions and practices;
- 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.

RE in our school will enable pupils:

- and teachers to talk openly and freely about their own personal beliefs and practice without fear of ridicule;
- to make excellent and appropriate progress in their knowledge and understanding of Christianity;
- from Christian families to talk openly about their beliefs and values in lessons and to grow in their faith;
- from other faith backgrounds to understand and be encouraged in their faith;
- with no religious background to be given an insight into what it means to be a person of faith;
- of all backgrounds to have a safe place to explore the ultimate questions and challenges of life in today's society.

Assessment and Monitoring

Assessment is regarded as an integral part of teaching and learning and is a continuous process which informs planning. The principles of Assessment for Learning will support the assessment process with:

- lesson objectives with clear success criteria;
- specific high level questioning to assess understanding;
- observing children at work and marking of tasks.

Progress in RE is reported through the annual end of year report.

The provision of RE is monitored by the SLT and the Governing Body, particularly through the Foundation Governors who have strong links with Halton SACRE.

Although this is a distinctly Christian school we still recognise that parents have the right to withdraw their children from RE lessons and acts of Collective Worship. If this happens, the child will be given alternative work and sent to another classroom to be supervised. However, we do not encourage children to be withdrawn from any lessons – this way the child receives a broad and balanced curriculum. If such a request is made, the Head teacher will explore the reasons for the request and seek to arrive at an accommodation.

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