



## Archbishop Hutton's V.C. Primary School

### RE Policy

Date approved: July 2020

Next Review: July 2022

Signed: ***M Jackson***

M. Jackson (Chair of Governors, Mrs. M. Jackson)

Date: July 2020

Signed: ***S Watson***

S. Watson (Headteacher, Miss. S. Watson)

Date: July 2020

Archbishop Hutton's is a Voluntary Controlled school, with close links to the local churches and community. As such, we believe that an understanding of the Christian faith informs all aspects of our life together and commits us to a search for truth and meaning.

RE at Archbishop Hutton's explores how individuals and communities make meaning and sense of their lives through the major religions of the world. It enables pupils to know about, understand and respond to the important and ultimate questions of life. RE is taught in such a way that it inspires pupils to explore, develop and affirm their own faith and values and have respect for the faith, beliefs and values of others.

#### **Our Vision for Archbishop Hutton's VC Primary School is:**

By promoting the traditional values of respectful behaviour, responsibility and forgiveness, we prepare our children for life in a global, multi-faith society.

By supporting all children to become independent thinkers and confident learners, we encourage curiosity, ambition and individuality.

By providing focused, engaging and inclusive teaching we equip the children to lead their own learning in a supportive and challenging environment.

**Jesus says in Matthew that *'a tree is known by its fruit.'* As a school we are known by the children that we nurture. Through actively promoting children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development with a strong focus on Christian values, our mission is:**

To create responsible citizens who:

- are polite, considerate and respect others
- work and play co-operatively and positively with others
- communicate effectively for a range of purposes, sharing ideas and listening to the ideas and opinions of others
- are aware of diversity, show tolerance and understanding
- understand local and global issues, and the part they can play in affecting change

To create successful learners who:

- are motivated by the adventure of learning
- achieve all they are capable of, making consistent progress
- enjoy thinking creatively, solving problems and using their enquiring minds
- participate actively in a variety of learning experiences
- respond to challenge - demonstrating perseverance, resilience and commitment

To create confident individuals who:

- have a sense of self-worth and personal identity
- are responsible, courageous and independent
- have a good understanding of personal well-being
- have secure values and beliefs based on sound moral principles
- are developing a spiritual awareness and an understanding of their place in the world
- are equipped for the challenges that face them in the future.

## **OUR INTENT: WHAT WE DO AT ARCHBISHOP HUTTON'S**

At Archbishop Hutton's, we want our pupils to have big ambitions and high expectations of themselves. We are an outward looking school, with a strong sense of our place in the local community and to that end we have created a curriculum that truly meets the needs of our children.

Our curriculum is driven by our children. It is a rich, exciting and balanced curriculum which enables each child to develop academically, emotionally, creatively, socially and physically.

Our curriculum enables the children to share ideas, express their opinions and apply knowledge and skills learned in a wide range of meaningful contexts. It offers opportunities for all children to investigate, question, debate and challenge.

At Archbishop Hutton's, all children are encouraged and challenged to be the very best they can be. We want our pupils to be active learners, questioning, investigating, challenging themselves and sharing responsibility for driving their own learning.

Above all, we expect our children to give their very best and to be proud of their achievements. These qualities needed for successful learning are underpinned by our focus on independence, inquisitiveness and resilience.

*Ofsted (June 2019) say: Leaders and governors ensure that pupils benefit from a broad curriculum. They develop their knowledge and skills across a range of subjects.*

To achieve these aims staff and governors will work in partnership with parents, carers and the local community for the benefit of all our pupils.

### **The distinctive nature of Archbishop Hutton's VC Primary School in the community**

We are a Voluntary Controlled Primary School located in the small village of Warton. The school has close links with the two churches – St Oswald's Church and Warton Methodist Church. Church leaders are welcomed into school to lead School Assemblies and to be involved in supporting RE lessons. The church buildings feature in the life of the school. The children make many visits there, not only to find out more about the buildings themselves but also to lead and take part in school services, concerts and national celebrations and commemorations (such as Remembrance Day). The School also has close links with the community generally. Members of the local community come to school to help the children with various activities e.g. reading, and they are in turn invited to concerts and special events as part of our policy of broadening the depth of relationships between the School and its community.

### **Preparing our pupils for Life in Modern Britain**

At present, pupils at our school are predominantly from a White British background. Apart from the wide range of abilities within the school population, which we recognise and cater for in our curriculum planning, the rural location of the school means that we are a considerable distance away from other faith communities/places of worship. As a result, our children's everyday experience of the increasingly pluralistic nature of British society can be limited. To compensate for this, we invite specialists to share their understanding and experience of a range of faith and cultural celebrations. We also have established an annual

RE week during which time all KS2 children have opportunities to visit other places of worship, such as a mosque in Bolton and a Buddhist temple in Ulverston. This year, we have welcomed visitors from major world faiths into the school allowing the children to develop a greater understanding of the lives of other British people.

### **Statutory Requirements**

Statutory Requirements Schools are required by the 1988 Education Reform Act (ERA) to provide Religious Education for all pupils aged 5-18.

The National Curriculum 2014 states: Every state-funded school must offer a curriculum which is balanced and broadly based<sup>1</sup> and which:

- promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society, and prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.
- The school curriculum comprises all learning and other experiences that each school plans for its pupils. The national curriculum forms one part of the school curriculum.
- All state schools are also required to make provision for a daily act of collective worship and must teach religious education to pupils at every key stage and sex and relationship education to pupils in secondary education.

### **Our Status as a Voluntary Controlled School**

Archbishop Hutton's VC Primary School is a Voluntary Controlled School, but we ensure the management of Religious Education is a distinctive role of the Governors and Head Teacher.

Religious Education is provided in accordance with the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of Page 4 of 7 Religious Education Policy: 2018-2019 England.

The Governing Body as a whole is responsible for determining the nature of Religious Education provided in its school.

As a Voluntary Controlled School, Archbishop Hutton's VC Primary School adopt the All teachers teaching RE – not PPA cover staff – following the Lancashire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education (2016) 'Searching for Meaning' which fulfils all legal requirements and the Religious Education Statement of Entitlement from the Church of England Education Office 2016.

Although Religious Education and Collective Worship naturally compliment and enrich one another they are managed separately. The Religious Education policy should be read alongside the schools Collective Worship policy.

At Archbishop Hutton's VC Primary School, the pupils and their families can expect a religious education curriculum that is rich and varied, enabling learners to acquire a

thorough knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith. We provide a wide range of opportunities for learners to understand and to make links between the beliefs, practices and value systems of the range of faiths and world views studied. We use an investigative, questioning approach that engages with, for example biblical text, and helps develop religious and theological literacy. There are strong links with the Christian values of the school and spiritual, moral, social and cultural development are intrinsic to the Religious Education curriculum and should have a significant impact on learners. These values are based on the Religious Education Statement of Entitlement: The Church of England Education Office 2016:

“Christianity should be the majority study in RE in every school. In Church schools that should be clearly adhered to. KS 1 – 3 at least 2 /3rds of RE curriculum is to be Christianity. Sufficient dedicated curriculum time, meeting explicitly RE objectives, however organised, should be committed to the delivery of RE. This should aim to be close to 10% but must be no less than 5%.”

RE Statement of Entitlement: The Church of England Education Office 2016

At Archbishop Hutton’s VC Primary School, an average of one hour per week of curriculum time will be devoted to the teaching of Religious Education. This will include distinct syllabus lessons plus teaching related to the Christian values. As we begin to embed the teaching of Religious Education across the curriculum there will be cross curricular links.

### **Aims of our RE Curriculum**

The broad aim of RE at Archbishop Hutton’s is to develop the knowledge, skills and understanding needed to enable children to understand the connections between religion, human experience and an individual’s own search for meaning.

Our Curriculum also;

- Enables pupils to know about and understand Christianity as a living faith that influences the lives of people worldwide and as the religion that has most shaped British culture and heritage.
- Enables pupils to know and understand about other major world religions and world views, their impact on society, culture and the wider world, enabling pupils to express ideas and insights.
- Contributes to the development of pupils’ own spiritual/philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own beliefs and values.
- Helps pupils develop an informed and respectful attitude to religions and world views in their search for God and meaning.
- Develops an understanding of belief which allows for meaningful and informed dialogue with those of other faiths and none.
- Allows pupils to reflect critically and responsibly on their own spiritual, philosophical and ethical convictions

### **Meeting the individual needs of pupils – SEN Provision:**

We will aim to ensure that the teaching of Religious Education is accessible to all pupils and provide additional support through;

- Differentiated curriculum
- Appropriate resources
- Teaching assistant support
- Small group support
- Appropriate teaching methods e.g. visual, auditory, kinaesthetic approaches

### **The contribution of Religious Education to Christian and British values at Archbishop Hutton's VC Primary School:**

The teaching of Religious Education positively drives the promotion of the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

### **Assessment and record keeping:**

Primary Assessment and recording is in accordance with guidance given in the BDBE RE Syllabus. It is important that the children are provided with a variety of opportunities to record their work. Assessment and recording will include;

- Pupil discussion and questioning conversations;
- Pupil discussion about their recorded work
- Verbal/ written feedback relevant to the RE learning objective Comments / Work recorded in the Class Scrapbook.
- Head teacher / SLT work scrutiny
- Lesson observations

### **Resources**

The core syllabus of: Lancashire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education (2016) 'Searching for Meaning' will be supported with a wide range of resources which are available to staff and children to access.

### **RE Management and Leadership**

The leader for RE at Archbishop Hutton's is Sarah Watson.

It is her role to: -

- Work with the Governors and the external Diocesan Schools' Consultant to review the RE Policy
- Oversee the organization of the RE syllabus and resources
- Ensure that teachers make judgements about pupil's attainment at the end of each year

### **Parental Rights of Withdrawal in a Voluntary Aided School.**

The Worship and Religious Education provided by Archbishop Hutton's VC Primary School is in accordance with guidance provided by the Church of England. This foundation is also reflected in the curriculum and the whole life of the school community. Since the conduct of the school as a whole reflects the Church of England ethos, removal of pupils from Worship and/or Religious Education (as parents are legally entitled to do) cannot insulate them from the religious life of the school.

If such a request for withdrawal is made, the Head Teacher will explore the reasons for the request and seek to arrive at an accommodation. It may be that only some elements of Religious Education or Worship are objected to.

Parents may request the governing board to provide Religious Education for their children according to the locally Agreed Syllabus. This can only be requested when parents cannot, with reasonable convenience, arrange for their children to attend another school where Religious Education is provided according to the locally Agreed Syllabus. The governing board should make provision unless the circumstances make it unreasonable to do so. Should the governing board be unable to make such arrangements for Religious Education to be delivered according to the Agreed Syllabus, the responsibility for doing so then falls on the Local Authority. The Local Authority may decide that such a request for separate Religious Education is unreasonable and the parental request then fails.

### **Review of Policy:**

This policy will be reviewed on a two-year rolling cycle by the Governing Body and Head Teacher.