St Barnabas and St Paul's C of E Primary School Religious Education Curriculum Rationale

Religious Education (RE) is vital as it prepares pupils to become thriving, respectful members of our society and is therefore, an essential core subject at our school which aims to foster pupil's fascination and understanding about a variety of religious beliefs and non-religious worldviews (NRW). At our school, we strongly believe in the importance of teaching an open and diverse RE curriculum which aims to develop a greater understanding of the six principal faiths and NRW. Through the teaching of RE as an academic subject, we strive to develop children's understanding about what other people believe and their religious practices in a sensitive manner, that does not require pupils to change their own religion or worldview in any way. We believe the teaching of RE encourages children to embrace diversity and challenges them to respectfully agree or disagree with the viewpoints of others.

Although RE is a subject without a prescribed curriculum content identified in the National Curriculum, it is a legal requirement for all pupils. Therefore, as a Church of England Primary School, we adhere to the Blackburn with Darwen Diocesan Syllabus which is supplemented by the Understanding Christianity scheme. This allows us to provide rich opportunities to explore the eight key concepts of Christianity in detail, in addition to developing a greater understanding of the five principal faiths and other NRW that are evident in British society today. We are committed to ensuring that our Christian vision and values are embedded into our RE curriculum, as well as provide meaningful experiences for pupils that will positively impact their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. As a school we have adopted the 'questful learning' approach outlined in the Diocesan Syllabus, which encourages our pupils to become independent learners who are regularly required to use their higher-order thinking skills to reflect and ponder their own responses to a variety of issues and ultimate questions. Through our ambitious RE curriculum we ensure our lessons promote a sense of awe and wonder and allow pupils to make connections to both their own beliefs and the faiths of others. As a school we firmly believe the teaching of RE allows all pupils to develop a better understanding of themselves, their community and the world around them.

As RE is a core subject at St Barnabas and St Paul's, it is taught weekly across all year groups and lessons typically last for one hour. As a Church of England School, we follow the guidance of the Diocesan Syllabus which suggests 80% of our RE teaching time is dedicated to Christianity and 20% is allocated to other religions and NRW. We also enrich our RE curriculum through a variety of whole school learning days and events, such as Multi-faith week, to ensure that all faiths and NRW are taught effectively and authentically across the school. We believe that these whole school learning days are a vital tool in developing our pupil's understanding and ability to make connections between the different religions and ensure that we are promoting a respectful ethos in which all members of our school community feel valued. At our school, we acknowledge the diverse background of the pupils and the fortunate position this places us in to deliver high-quality RE lessons. We recognise the majority of our pupils are from other faiths and we actively encourage our pupils to draw upon and

share their own experiences and knowledge, therefore making RE a more personal and meaningful learning experience.

By the time our pupils leave St Barnabas and St Paul's, they will have developed a good understanding of the eight key concepts of Christianity and be able to connect Christian beliefs, values and practices to the teaching in the Bible. They will be able to confidently make comparisons between different faiths and NRW and identify similarities and differences between them. All pupils will be able to ask respectful questions about religion in order to improve their learning and express their own opinions on issues they have discussed. They will talk knowledgeably about places of worship and teachings from various Holy Books, and make connections to how this impacts the lives and behaviour of believers. They will also be able to explain what they believe motivates people of faith and discuss what inspires and influences them personally.