

## **Golborne St. Thomas' C of E J & I School**

### **RE Policy**

#### **A journey in faith, arriving with hope.**

##### **St. Thomas' School vision:**

**To ensure the children are highly valued by all members of the school community.**

St. Thomas' creates a culture of high aspirations by making the school the heart of the community. We aim to develop a culture of curiosity and creativity by unleashing our children's God-given potential to make a difference in our locality and beyond.

Our parents, staff and governors see and understand the individual talents of each pupil and the opportunities provided. We openly celebrate and reward children's successes and achievements.

**To inspire all children through a broad, balanced and engaging curriculum enabling every child to succeed.**

We create an ethos where everyone is an explorer and an active participant. Children are challenged and encouraged to thrive in all areas. Our aim is to nurture talent and ensure children are equipped to live life in all its fullness.

Children experience a wide range of high quality lessons and enrichment activities daily. We recognise that children are naturally curious; therefore child-led learning is developed through their questions.

**To nurture children's wellbeing to ensure healthy mind, body and spirit.**

At St. Thomas' values are at the heart of all we do. We provide a safe, supportive environment which empowers children to grow and develop their self-worth, self-esteem and self-respect. Our unique learners are resilient and are willing to take big risks to make big leaps.

Values are actively promoted, modelled, and celebrated by all. Our inspiring curriculum and pastoral care teaches children the importance of healthy lifestyles: physically, mentally and spiritually.

### **RE Policy**

Golborne St. Thomas' is a church school. We greatly value our spiritual ethos and believe all children have the right to access a high quality and engaging RE curriculum.

Our vision is that children will be able to learn not just about religion, but also from religion, in a way that prepares our children to cope with life's challenges.

We ensure that our children achieve a larger proportion of the 5% curriculum time that is stated in the national guidance. We do this by having at least one week each half term where the afternoons are dedicated to the systematic teaching of RE.

#### **The Curriculum**

At Golborne St Thomas', we follow the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education Religious Education Syllabus. Each unit addresses a concept, through some key questions, exploring core Bible texts, their impact for Christians, and possible implications for them. Three elements are included in this approach: making sense of the text (handling and interpretation), making connections (reflecting on possible connections to their own lives) and understanding the impact (how Christians put their

beliefs into action). Our curriculum also incorporates the Understanding Christianity resource that aims to give children a greater depth of understanding and application of Christianity

At the very heart of our curriculum is the importance of understanding the big picture of the Bible narrative. This is carried out by covering the following eight core concepts: -

1. God – as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
2. Creation – the universe and human life are God’s good creation.
3. Fall – humans have a tendency to go their own way, rather than God’s way. Our fallen nature (which started in the Adam and Eve narrative) points to our need of rescue.
4. People of God – this involves God choosing a nation to model a restored relationship with God, but this ultimately failed despite the prophets’ warnings.
5. Incarnation – the New Testament presents Jesus as the answer.
6. Gospel – this means good news, Jesus’ life and teaching shows how to live in a relationship with God.
7. Salvation – Jesus’ death and resurrection effect the rescue of humans. He opens the way back to God.
8. Kingdom of God – God’s ideal for life in the world, which is assisted through the Holy Spirit, and will be fully realised in the future.

### **RE at Golborne St. Thomas’**

Our objectives are:

- To give children an understanding of what it means to be a Christian.
- To use this understanding to help maintain the school’s ethos and vision that helps children to relate to one another in a positive way.
- To value and respect other religions recognising common ground and appreciating distinctiveness.
- To have a mastery of the eight core themes in terms of both their chronological nature and in terms of how different stories can relate to more than one concept.
- To give the children life skills that will help them in their on-going careers, relationships with others, and relationship with God.

### **Governors**

It is the statutory duty of the governors to ensure that the school follows its requirement to allot the correct amount of time and coverage to the teaching of RE.

### **Further Information**

For full details and to answer any further questions you may have, please consult our School Information Report, found on our school website.

You can see our subject in action by viewing the school Facebook and Twitter feeds. Visits to school can also be arranged.

Policy written: May2024

Review date: May 2025