

# The Whitchurch CE Federation

## The Healthy Me – Religious Education



*“Learning as we grow. Growing as we learn. Rooted in Jesus.”*  
*‘I am the vine;  
you are the branches.  
Those who remain in me,  
and I in them,  
will produce much fruit.  
For apart from me you can do nothing.’*  
*John, 15:5*

### Vision Statement

To create a welcoming and inclusive environment in which all children will flourish. Every child is encouraged to care for, respect and appreciate the ultimate worth of others, developing positive relationships as they take their first steps towards independence and becoming responsible, thoughtful and confident adults of the future, making successful contributions to their local and the global community.

### Intent

As a Church of England Federation, our fundamental aim is to prepare our pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in modern diverse Britain. Whilst the study of Christianity lies at the heart of our RE curriculum, pupils are also taught about other faiths, traditions and beliefs so that they learn to appreciate the richness and diversity of our trust, local community and the global community. Through the teachings of Jesus our pupils are taught the human values of respect and tolerance towards all others.

### **The aims of Religious Education in our Federation are:**

- To help pupils to know about and understand Christianity as a living world faith through the exploration of core theological concepts using an approach that critically engages with text.
- To help pupils consider the impact and connection that Christianity has on Britain's cultural heritage and the lives of people worldwide.
- To enable all pupils to develop knowledge and understanding of other major world religions and world views and their impact on society and culture

- To give pupils a safe space to critically reflect on their own religious, spiritual and/or philosophical convictions.
- To help pupils to develop knowledge and skills in making sense of religious texts and teachings and understanding their impact on the lives of believers.
- To develop pupils' abilities to connect, critically reflect upon, evaluate and apply their learning to their own growing understanding of religion and belief, of themselves, the world and human experience.
- To develop an understanding of religious faith as the search for and expression of truth, and so to consider important human questions, values and concerns.
- To nurture understanding, respect and open-mindedness and inspire lifelong engagement with the study of religions and beliefs.

## Implementation

Religious Education (RE) plays an important role in defining the Federation's distinctive Christian character. The subject is regarded as a core subject within the Federation's curriculum. It has a vital role in developing religious literacy and deepening pupils' understanding of Christianity, in all its forms, and fostering appreciation and understanding of other faith traditions.

RE teaching at The Whitchurch CE Federation is in line with the recommendations of the Statement of Entitlement for Church Schools, published by the Church of England Education Office (Feb 2019),

RE teaching also follows the legal requirements of the Education Reform Act (1988), which places RE as part of the basic curriculum; a statutory subject which is an entitlement for all pupils. The Federation bases its RE provision on the Shropshire Locally Agreed Syllabus. In addition, the Federation uses the Lichfield Diocese RE Guidance exemplar units, Understanding Christianity resource and other appropriate materials to enhance teaching and learning.

At least 5% (closer to 10%) of curriculum time will be dedicated to meeting explicitly RE objectives, although the subject may be taught across the curriculum when appropriate. Within this teaching allocation at least 50% of subject content will be allocated to an exploration of the Christian faith, and the concepts, beliefs, teachings and practices that lie at its heart.

## Impact

The outcomes for pupils at the end of their time in our Federation are that they are able to:

- Compare and contrast the key beliefs and practices of the religions studied and show how they are connected to believers' lives
- Describe different aspects of belonging to a religion – symbol, story, festival, belief, faith in action, ritual, worship
- Express religious' beliefs and ideas with the appropriate language, vocabulary and terminology and describe what they mean
- Ask questions sensitively about the lives of believers and suggest appropriate answers
- Reflect on the decisions people make – including believers – and suggest possible outcomes
- Compare their own experience and identity with others – including believers
- Reflect and empathise with the big questions of life, suggesting some answers / insights
- Be confident to explore their own spirituality and search for truth
- Value the religious journey of faith
- Develop pupils' ability to interpret and appreciate religious imagery and expression