

## **Statement of Intent for Religious Education**

The key purpose of the Understanding Christianity is to support pupils in developing their understanding of Christianity, as a contribution to their understanding of the world and their own experience within it.

It does this by integrating pupils' developing understanding of significant theological concepts in Christianity with their own self-understanding and understanding of the world, as part of their wider religious literacy.

### **Aims of this work**

- To enable pupils to know about and understand Christianity as a living world faith, by exploring core theological concepts
- To enable pupils to develop knowledge and skills in making sense of biblical texts and understanding their impact in the lives of Christians
- To develop pupils' abilities to connect, critically reflect upon, evaluate and apply their learning to their own growing understanding of religion and belief (particularly Christianity), of themselves, the world and human experience.

The aims and purposes of Religious Education in a Church School are drawn from the Durham and Newcastle Diocese Agreed RE syllabus (2018).

- To ensure excellence in Religious Education
- To enable pupils to hold balanced and informed conversations about religion and belief
- To enable 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.
- To enable pupils to know and understand about other major world religions and non-religious worldviews, their impact on society, culture and the wider world, enabling pupils to express ideas and insights.
- To contribute to the development of pupils' own spiritual/philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own beliefs and values.

Appropriate to their age at the end of their education in Church schools, the expectation is that all pupils are religiously literate and as a minimum pupils are able to:

- Give a theologically informed and thoughtful account of Christianity as a living and diverse faith.
- Show an informed and respectful attitude to religions and non-religious worldviews in their search for God and meaning.

- Engage in meaningful and informed dialogue with those of other faiths and none.
- Reflect critically and responsibly on their own spiritual, philosophical and ethical convictions.'

Understanding Christianity and the Durham and Newcastle Diocese Agreed RE syllabus (2018) are designed to support schools in developing and delivering excellence in RE. They set out an approach to teaching and learning, support teachers to help pupils encounter core concepts in religions and beliefs in a coherent way, develop their understanding and their ability to hold balanced and informed conversations about religions and beliefs. They are underpinned by three core elements, which are woven together to provide breadth and balance within teaching and learning about religions and beliefs, thus supporting the aims of Religious Education.