# *Middleforth Church of England Primary School*

| Religious Education Policy | |
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| Date | October 2026 |
| Review Date | October 2027 |

*Let Your Light Shine – Matthew 5:16*

Through the Religious Education for staff, the school will promote and teach the values we learn based on the example of the Christian faith:

- Forgiveness
- Respect for self and others
- Reconciliation and redemption
- Truth and honesty
- Trust and fairness
- Tolerance and compassion
- Self-discipline
- Respect for property and the environment
- Politeness

Such values, in turn, promote not only the Christian ethos and aims of Middleforth Church of England Primary School, but assist in the preparation of the children for the responsibilities and duties of adult life.

## Vision

As a caring, Christian community, we aspire to 'let our light shine'. We will open up the world to celebrate God's wonderful creation and foster a sense of awe and wonder.
We will nurture our God given talents to ensure that everyone reaches their full potential academically, socially and spiritually.
**'Let your light shine Matthew 5.16'**

Faith is fully embedded into our classrooms. The Christian values of Respect, Love, Courage, Forgiveness, Hope and Friendship are the golden threads that weave their way through the fabric of our daily lives.

## Aims:

Our aim is that pupils will be introduced to the key beliefs and aspects of the Christian faith and helped to explore them. These would include:

- That they are loved by God and part of God's family
- Learn how to pray
- Understand the "BIG story" of salvation fulfilled by Jesus Christ
- Explore Christian and other faiths
- Be guided by the moral compass of our Gospel Values
- Love their neighbour and seek to serve them and the wider community

## Mission and aims:

Middleforth Church of England Primary School preserves and develops its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church and Blackburn Diocese. Our school is a special place full of learning, laughter and friendship and where all children are happy feel safe and are valued.
At Middleforth, we provide the best primary education in a stimulating environment. The school develops a love of learning inspired by quality teaching, building and developing upon individual strengths and talents.

We believe every child is entitled to enjoy his or her childhood. We teach the importance of moral

Christian values and provide the foundation for lifelong friendships. Children educated at Middleforth are tolerant, committed and confident. The School works in close partnership with St. Leonards Church and Community to develop citizens who will lead happy and rewarding lives.

Our aims at Middleforth Church of England Primary School are:

- That school will be a place of optimism and hope, where new technology makes an impact.
- We will continually seek improvement and expect high standards.
- The curriculum provided will be well balanced, innovative and creative where children will achieve their full potential.
- We will provide a learning environment at the heart of the community endeavouring to build learning partnerships with all associated with school.
- Pupils will have the opportunity to develop independent learning skills through self-supported study using state of the art ICT to equip students with the skills for citizens ready to face the challenges of the next century.
- That all members of the Middleforth family feel valued as an individual.
- Where success is celebrated and pupils are happy in a safe, caring environment.
- We will have high expectations and standards of behaviour.
- We will respect each other regardless of ethnicity, religion or barrier to learning.
- We will provide the opportunity for prayer, relaxation, reflection and the enrichment of human spirit.
- We will work in partnership with parents to enable them to have an active role in their children's learning and make full use of external agencies and extended services to ensure all children and their families has access to advice and practical support where needed.

**Mission statement for Religious Education:**

At Middleforth Church of England Primary School the educational process is rooted in the living faith of the school. Religious Education has an important role in reflecting and conveying the distinctively Christian character of the school always aiming for the highest standard, always striving for excellence, reflecting the school's distinctive Christian character. Religious education is the vehicle for living the vision of our Church school and should aim to:

- Ensure that the children are ASKING, INVESTIGATING and UNDERSTANDING
- Provoke religious thinking and give the children opportunity to reflect
- Enable the children to have informed conversations about religious beliefs and practices to connect, critically reflect upon, evaluate and apply their learning to their own growing understanding and respect of religion and belief (Christian and Non-Christian), of themselves, the world and human experience
- Develop understanding of Christianity as a diverse global living faith.
- Develop understanding of Christian values and how to live by these through words and actions at Middleforth Church of England Primary School.

**Religious Education Syllabus for Church of England Schools:**

As a Voluntary Controlled Church of England school, Middleforth Church of England Primary School recognises Religious Education as a core and distinctive part of its Christian foundation. The Headteacher and Governing Body share responsibility for ensuring that Religious Education reflects the school's Christian character and is delivered in accordance with the principles and teachings of the Church of England. The Governing Body is responsible for determining and monitoring the provision of Religious Education, ensuring it meets statutory requirements and supports pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

As a Voluntary Controlled School Middleforth Church of England Primary School adopt the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education Syllabus for Religious Education which fulfils all legal requirements and the Religious Education Statement of Entitlement from the Church of England Education Office 2016, see separate appendix. The core Syllabus is based on Blackburn Diocesan's 'Questful RE' and supported by the 'Understanding Christianity' resource. 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 Worship policy.

At Middleforth Church of England 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 literacy and theological understanding. 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. Based on the Religious Education Statement of Entitlement: The Church of England Education Office 2026:

***"Christianity to be the main religious worldview studied in and through RE in each year group/phase equating to at least 50% of curriculum time."***

***""Sufficient dedicated curriculum time, meeting explicitly RE objectives, is committed to the delivery of RE. This should aim to be close to 10% but must be no less than 5% in key stages (KS) 1–4."***

RE Statement of Entitlement: The Church of England Education Office 2026

At Middleforth Church of England Primary school an average of 1.5 hours 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. At least 50% of curriculum time is devoted to Christianity, with the remaining time devoted to the study of other religious and non-religious worldviews as outlined in the Blackburn Diocesan Questful RE curriculum.

## Religious Education Statement of Entitlement: The Church of England Education Office Aims and Objectives 2026:

Religious Education in Church schools enables pupils to become religiously literate and theologically aware. Through the study of Christianity and a range of religious and non-religious worldviews, pupils develop the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to engage thoughtfully with the diverse world in which they live.

**Religious Education in Church Schools aims to enable pupils to:**

- Know about and understand Christianity as a living faith that influences the lives of people worldwide and explore the significance of biblical texts, theology and Christian practice.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of a range of religious and non-religious worldviews, recognising diversity, continuity and change within and between traditions.

- Engage with challenging questions of meaning, purpose, truth, identity and belonging.
- Explore and reflect on their own beliefs, values and ways of understanding the world.
- Develop respect, understanding and compassion for those who hold different beliefs and worldviews.
- Think critically, ask thoughtful questions and engage in meaningful dialogue about religious and philosophical issues.
- Understand the ways in which religion and worldviews shape individuals, communities, cultures and society.

**Religious Education in Church Schools should help pupils to:**

- Learn about Christianity as the main religious worldview studied throughout their school journey whilst engaging with a range of other religious and non-religious worldviews.
- Explore beliefs, practices, sources of authority and lived experiences within different traditions.
- Recognise commonalities and differences between worldviews and appreciate the richness of diversity in modern Britain and the wider world.
- Engage respectfully and thoughtfully with people whose beliefs and values may differ from their own.
- Develop the knowledge and skills required to interpret religious texts, symbols, stories and practices.
- Reflect critically on questions of belief, meaning and purpose, considering a variety of perspectives.

**Religious Education in Church Schools should also help pupils to:**

- Reflect theologically and philosophically on the big questions of human existence.
- Understand how Christian beliefs and values continue to shape individuals, communities and society today.
- Develop the confidence to discuss and express their own views whilst respecting the views of others.
- Explore issues of identity, belonging, morality and spirituality.
- Build skills of enquiry, interpretation, analysis and evaluation.
- Develop as informed, thoughtful and responsible citizens who contribute positively to their communities.
- Recognise ways in which faith and belief can inspire hope, resilience and action for justice and the common good.

**Religious Education in Church Schools should enable:**

- Pupils and staff to discuss questions of faith, belief and worldview openly and respectfully.
- Pupils to make excellent progress in their understanding of Christianity and other religious and non-religious worldviews.
- Pupils from Christian backgrounds to deepen their understanding of their faith.
- Pupils from other faith backgrounds to be recognised, valued and encouraged in their own traditions.
- Pupils with no religious affiliation to explore beliefs and worldviews in a safe and supportive environment.
- All pupils to engage confidently with the diversity of beliefs and worldviews they encounter in contemporary society.

The teaching of Religious Education, alongside collective worship, makes a significant contribution to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. At Middleforth Church of England Primary School, RE supports pupils in developing wisdom, hope, community and dignity. Teachers ensure that Christian values and learning from RE permeate all areas of school life and are revisited through the curriculum, relationships, behaviour and our shared vision as a Church school.

## 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 content and outcomes.
- Appropriate and adapted resources.
- Teaching assistant support.
- Small group or targeted intervention support where appropriate.
- Appropriate teaching methods, including visual, auditory and kinaesthetic approaches.
- The use of scaffolds, sentence stems, vocabulary banks and writing frames to support communication and recording.
- Multi-sensory learning opportunities, including artefacts, images, drama, storytelling and practical activities.
- Adapted questioning and adult support to enable all pupils to engage with key concepts and discussions.
- Flexible approaches to recording learning, such as verbal responses, drawing, role play, photographs or digital technologies.
- Pre-teaching and reinforcement of key vocabulary and concepts.
- Careful consideration of pupils' individual needs, including those with EHCPs, ensuring appropriate reasonable adjustments are made.
- Opportunities for collaborative learning and peer support to promote confidence and participation.
- Regular assessment to identify barriers to learning and inform appropriate next steps and support.

We believe that every child should have the opportunity to engage meaningfully with Religious Education and develop their understanding of Christianity and other religious and non-religious worldviews, regardless of ability or need.

## The contribution of Religious Education to Christian and British values at Middleforth Church of England 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.

## Religion and World Views

Religious Education at Middleforth Church of England Primary School is taught through a religion and worldviews approach. Pupils learn about Christianity as the main religious worldview while also studying a range of other religious and non-religious worldviews. They develop the knowledge and skills to understand how beliefs, values and practices shape

individuals, communities and society, enabling them to engage respectfully and thoughtfully with the diverse world in which they live.

**Assessment and record keeping**:
Primary Assessment and recording is in accordance with Questful RE and based on the ladder of expectation and achievement along with the guidelines for end of key stage expectations. Teachers use an assessment and recording sheet at the end of each unit. It is important that 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 class scrapbooks/floorbooks
- Internal moderation of work using the ladder of expectation of achievement in RE and milestone markers.
- Class and whole school displays

Assessment in Religious Education focuses on pupils' progress in disciplinary and substantive knowledge as outlined in Questful RE. Assessment informs planning, identifies next steps in learning and supports teachers in ensuring all pupils make progress from their individual starting points.

**Resources**
The core syllabus of 'Questful RE' will be supported with a wide range of resources, such as Understanding Christianity.

**Monitoring and Evaluation**
The subject leader for Religious Education is responsible for monitoring standards of teaching and learning in RE, supporting colleagues, reviewing planning and assessment, monitoring pupil outcomes and ensuring the curriculum remains in line with Blackburn Diocese guidance and the Church of England Statement of Entitlement. Governors receive regular updates regarding the effectiveness of Religious Education across the school.

**Parental Rights of Withdrawal in a Voluntary Controlled School**
The Worship and Religious Education provided by Middleforth Church of England 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.