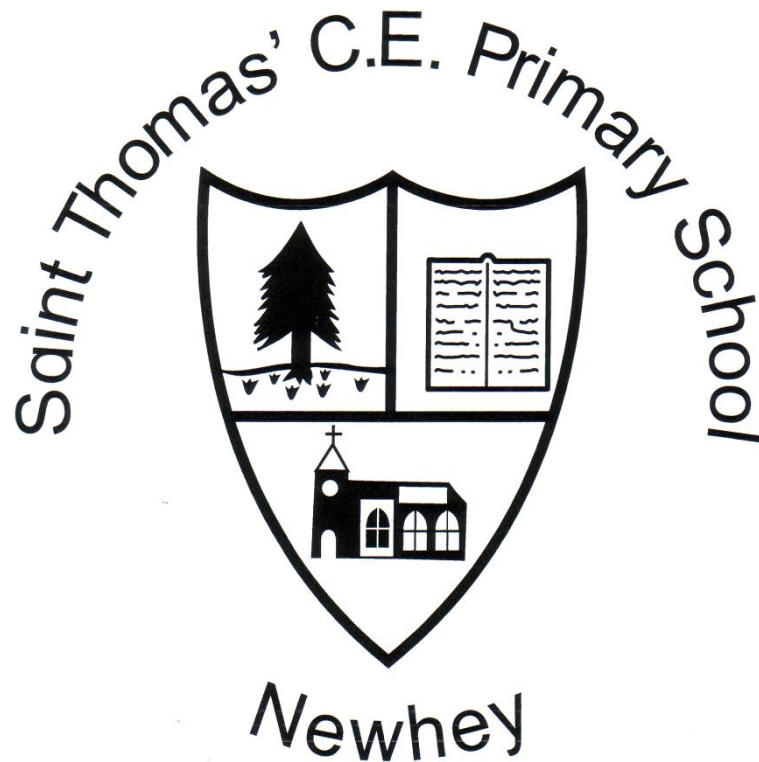


R.E. Policy



Love God, Love Learning, Love One Another

Revised: September 2024

School Vision







Through the love of learning, love of life and love of God we aspire to enable our community to grow as children of God, living life in all its fulness.

Teaching students that they are valued

The school's vision reflects the fact that we are all loved, have worth and potential.

We explicitly teach the children that they have worth in the eyes of God and no one else is the same as them. We teach them that they each have a purpose that no one else can fulfil, and that they belong to a community. Children understand that they are all different and know that this is a good thing.

Our school Christian values are:

LOVE 	RESPECT 	WISDOM 	GENEROSITY 	COMPASSION 	FORGIVENESS 
We love God and each other with trust, acceptance and support.	We accept people for who they are, even when they are different to us or we don't agree with them. Having respect builds feelings of trust, safety and wellbeing	Wisdom is more than just knowledge; it is a proper understanding of the consequences of our thoughts, words and actions.	We all have something to offer; time, talents and love. We should do this freely.	Compassion is about 'standing in someone else's shoes' when they are having a hard time. In other words, trying to understand how they might be feeling and doing our best to try to help.	Forgiveness that is genuine and from the heart, received as well as given, brings a kind of peace that helps you go on with life
Do everything in love. 1 Corinthians 16:14	Love one another John 13.34	All wisdom comes from God Proverbs 2:6	Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7	The Lord is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion Psalm 116:5	For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. Matthew 6:14

PRINCIPAL AIM OF RE

The principal aim of religious education is to explore what people believe and what difference this makes to how they live, so that pupils can gain the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to handle questions raised by religion and belief, reflecting on their own ideas and ways of living (Manchester Diocese RE Syllabus 2023)

THE AIMS OF RE (INTENT)

1. Make sense of a range of religious and non-religious beliefs, so that they can:
 - Identify, describe, explain and analyse beliefs and concepts in the context of living religions, using appropriate vocabulary.
 - Explain how and why these beliefs are understood in different ways, by individuals and within communities.
 - Recognise how and why sources of authority (e.g., texts, teachings, traditions, leaders) are used, expressed and interpreted in different ways, developing skills or interpretation.
2. Understand the impact and significance of religious and non-religious beliefs, so that they can:
 - Examine and explain how and why people express their beliefs in diverse ways.
 - Recognise and account for ways in which people put their beliefs into action in diverse ways, in their everyday lives, within their communities and in the wider world.
 - Appreciate and appraise the significance of different ways of life and ways of expressing meaning.
3. Make connections between religious and non-religious beliefs, concepts, practices and ideas studied, so that they can:
 - Evaluate, reflect on and enquire into key concepts and questions studied, responding thoughtfully and creatively, giving good reasons for their responses.
 - Challenge the ideas studied and allow the ideas studied to challenge their own thinking, articulating beliefs, values and commitments clearly in response.
 - Discern possible connections between the ideas studied and their own ways of understanding the world, expressing their critical responses and personal reflections with increasing clarity and understanding.

Manchester Diocese RE Syllabus 2023

HOW WE TEACH R.E.

RE is a legal requirement

- Every pupil has an entitlement to religious education (RE).
- RE is a necessary part of a broad and balanced curriculum.

At St Thomas' religious education is taught to every child whatever their ability and individual needs. Religious education forms part of the school's curriculum policy to provide a broad and balanced education to all. Parents/carers have the legal right to withdraw their child from RE lessons or any part of the RE curriculum if they choose. If a parent wishes to do this they should put this in writing to the Headteacher. Our teaching and learning style in RE is based on the principle that good teaching allows children to learn about and reflect upon RE traditions and concepts.

Children in key stage 2 are taught in single year groups, to ensure coverage of the curriculum. Key Stage 2 children are taught together, using a two-year cycle. The RE lead teaches her own class and the year 4 children.

Our teaching enables children to extend their own sense of values and promotes their spiritual growth. Children in Reception Class have 50 minutes of RE teaching, through whole class, adult guided sessions or continuous provision activities. In key stage one and key stage 2, the children have a 1 hour lesson each week. Additional time is spent teaching R.E. through themed weeks.

50% of teaching time must be for the teaching of Christianity and the other 50% is for other religions or non-religious world views. We use experiences of religious festivals such as Easter, Diwali, Eid etc. to develop religious thinking.

Our children also visit different places of worship including a synagogue, a mosque and a church. We also welcome visitors from other faiths into our school to talk to our children.

Year 6 pupils attend a special leaver's assembly at Manchester Cathedral each summer. Children are given the opportunity to research religious topics and discuss these in small groups or in whole class situations. Drama and art feature within RE lessons allowing children to express their thoughts and feelings. Research and practical activities allow children to deepen their understanding of fundamental aspects of RE. Class teachers plan the lessons for their class using the Manchester Diocese RE Syllabus 2023. They ensure that lessons are appropriate to the age of the children within the class and differentiate work as necessary to ensure access by all.

PLANNING, ASSESSMENT AND RECORD KEEPING

Teachers plan weekly RE lessons using the Manchester Diocese RE Syllabus 2023 as a framework, supported by the Understanding Christianity resources. The children in key stages 1 and 2 record work in individual workbooks. Work is marked in line with the school marking policy and feedback given accordingly.

Assessments are recorded on the school system FFT Aspire on a half-termly basis. Books are scrutinised by subject leaders throughout the year.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Resources to support the teaching of RE are stored within the hall cupboards and the school library. Materials are also stored on the school computer system to allow them to be accessed by all staff.