



Low Furness CE Primary School

'Love your neighbour as yourself'

Mark 12:31

Love of self, Love of others, Love of learning & a Love of the world

Religious Education Policy

Legal Framework

Religious Education in our Church of England School lies at the very heart of our curriculum. As a Voluntary controlled school, we are legally required to adopt the Cumbria local authority agreed syllabus. Families who send their children to this school are in the main 'nominally' Christian, some children are from practising Christian families and some from non-religious backgrounds. Religious Education (RE) fulfills the RE statement of entitlement and the Christian ethos and nature of the school, trust deed and vision statement of 'Love your neighbour as yourself'. The faith background of both the staff and child's family is respected at all times. Staff are expected to support the Christian ethos of the school and is inclusive of all individuals regardless of their beliefs.

Parents of a pupil at our school have a legal right in accordance with the Education Act 1996 to withdraw their children from RE. As this subject is central to the life and identity of Low Furness CE Primary School, we ask parents to discuss with the head teacher any reasons they may have for doing this.

In line with the requirements of the Cumbria Agreed Syllabus of Religious Education we plan for RE to be delivered as stand-alone lessons. Children in Early Years and Key Stage 1 receive approximately 50 minutes a week RE teaching, rising to an hour in Key Stage 2. Our RE curriculum ensures that the building of knowledge through the school links to a particular religious or non-religious world view (Humanism) is taught through the lens of Christianity.

Values and Aims

We believe that RE both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Our caring and loving Christian vision, as well as the value which we place on the development of the whole child: spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually, is reflected in the RE curriculum.

At Low Furness, our aim is to embed one of Jesus' greatest commandments into our school ethos of Love.

"Love your neighbour as yourself."

We are committed to providing our children with a RE curriculum which strengthens our Christian vision, one which is underpinned by Jesus' teaching that the Greatest Commandment of all is reflected upon

hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees. At this point the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with the question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

Jesus replied: "*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.*" This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "*Love your neighbour as yourself.*" All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.' (Mark 12:31)

A vision of love underpinned and guided by God's love & the Holy Trinity: **love of self, love of others, love of learning**, and a **love of the world** and **local area** that we live in threads through all aspects of our school life, curriculum and actions we take. Our daily Collective Worship allows us time to reflect, take time and build on our school vision through our recipe of love.

Love of self - Loving, valuing and accepting yourself either as a child or an adult, is a key part to good mental health and wellbeing. This includes recognising that all people are uniquely made in the image of God and equally loved by God regardless of who they love or how they identify. Our children will celebrate this uniqueness along with their skills and talents which they are encouraged to share with others.

Love of others - Guided by God's love, Loving your neighbours (others) and the challenge that this brings allows us to explore who neighbours are and lets us explore and learn about difference and diversity in all its forms. We want our children to treat others with dignity and respect, and to celebrate the differences which make up modern Britain and the wider world.

Love of learning - At Low Furness we strive for academic excellence for all, providing a broad, balanced and ambitious curriculum to children of all faith and no faith through the lens of Christianity. Our vision of love shapes our approach to providing support for pupils with additional needs and has driven us to improve, develop and invest in a new curriculum for this academic year. Within our curriculum, children have a core foundational knowledge across all subjects and has been carefully designed to enable children to know more and remember more. All adults are encouraged and supported in continuing their own learning journey through our ambitious curriculum and high quality CPD.

Love of the world - The world we live in offers an infinite number of possibilities for all. We want our children to embrace these opportunities both in school and beyond so that everyone in our school community can flourish into the young people and adults they are meant to be. We aim to create confident young people who can be fully inquisitive participants in an increasingly interconnected world.

Our recipe of love at Low Furness captures the key ingredients and gospel values we have identified to ensure that all adults and pupils are able to thrive and flourish and this can be seen in all our RE curriculum lessons.

The aims of Religious Education at Low Furness are:

- To know about and understand Christianity as a diverse global living faith through the exploration of core beliefs using an approach that critically engages with biblical text.
- To gain knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews appreciating diversity, continuity and change within the religions and worldviews being studied.
- To engage with challenging questions of meaning and purpose raised by human existence and experience.

- To recognise the concept of religion and its continuing influence on Britain's cultural heritage and in the lives of individuals and societies in different times, cultures and places.
- To explore their own religious, spiritual and philosophical ways of living, believing and thinking.

RE Statement of Entitlement: The Church of England Education Office

At Low Furness, our expectation is that when pupils leave us **at the end of KS2**, 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 world views in their search for God and meaning.
- Engage in meaningful and informed dialogue with those of all faiths and none.
- Reflect critically and responsibly on their own spiritual, philosophical and ethical convictions.

We learn about:

- God who reveals the truth about himself and humanity through creation, the giving of the law, his action in history and through the prophets;
- God who reveals himself ultimately in Jesus his Son, living among us and dying and rising for us;
- God who reveals himself in his Spirit working in the living faith of the Church experienced through scripture, tradition and reason.

We learn from

- an empathetic response to the Christian faith and a critical engagement with it;
- responding personally to the stories and teachings of Jesus Christ;
- examples of Christian living which give priority to the values of unconditional love, forgiveness, reconciliation, justice, compassion and faith.

At Low Furness, Religious Education also helps our pupils to:

- learn about all faiths, their beliefs, traditions and practices and from them through encounter and dialogue;
- recognise and respect those of all faiths in their search for God;
- recognise areas of common belief and practice between different faiths;
- enrich and expand their understanding of truth while remaining faithful to their own tradition;
- enrich their own faith through examples of holy living in other traditions.
- reflect theologically and explore the ultimate questions and challenges of life in today's society;
- reflect critically on the truth claims of Christian belief;
- see how the truth of Christianity is relevant today;
- understand the challenge faced by Christians in today's pluralist and post-modern society;
- develop the skills to handle the Bible text;
- recognise that faith is based on commitment to a particular way of understanding God and the world;
- begin to develop their own commitments, beliefs and values;
- develop a sense of themselves as significant, unique and precious;
- experience the breadth and variety of the Christian community;
- engage in thoughtful dialogue with all faiths and traditions;
- become active citizens, serving their neighbour;
- find a reason for hope in a troubled world;
- understand how religious faith can sustain believers in difficult circumstances and in the face of opposition.; Religious Education in Church Schools should enable:
 - pupils and teachers to talk openly and freely about their own personal beliefs and practice without fear of ridicule;
 - pupils to make excellent and appropriate progress in their knowledge and understanding of Christianity;

- pupils from Christian families to talk openly about their beliefs and values in lessons and to grow in their faith;
- pupils from all faith backgrounds to understand and be encouraged in their faith;
- pupils with no religious background to be given an insight into what it means to be a person of faith;
- pupils of all backgrounds have a safe place to explore the ultimate questions and challenges of life in today's society.

Planning

In order to ensure that our aims are met, the school has created a long term plan and sequence of work using the Cumbrian Agreed Syllabus for RE and the RE statement of entitlement.

Our Long term plan and progression in RE at Low Furness has then been created using Questful RE as a basis for our plan. We have then looked at the progression of concepts and themes across the year groups to ensure that the building of knowledge through the school links to a particular religious or non-religious world view (Humanism). We have also enhanced the quality of our RE plan with units from Understanding Christianity.

For each class there is a two year rolling programme that promotes the explicit teaching of Christian concepts and all our units have non-Christian and other faith links included to ensure we give our children the opportunity to explore major religions and world views through the lens of Christianity.

Short term planning of weekly individual lessons is then composed and taught by all class teachers following our long term plan and progression map.

Assessment and achievement

The Agreed Syllabus sets out a structure for recognising pupil achievements and each pupil can work progressively towards achieving the statements of attainment as outlined in the Cumbria Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education and Questful RE. Assessment in RE is seen in its broadest sense and is not limited to measurement and testing. Through activities for example, discussion with pupils, group activities, marking and guiding their work, observing, displaying work, asking and answering questions, teachers are continually finding out about their pupils' achievements.

School reports are sent home in the summer term of each year and the RE report is written with reference to progress, discussion and understanding during the year. Our end of year reports also highlight key RE curriculum targets.

Other policies linked to our RE curriculum policy include:

- SEN provision
- The contribution of RE to Christian and British values
- Resources
- Marking, feedback and assessment

Leadership, management and monitoring

The teaching, assessing and resourcing of Religious Education is managed by the RE subject leader who is also the Headteacher, to ensure that the principles set out in the National Society's Statement of Entitlement for RE are implemented ([see link below](#))

The RE subject leader will:

- Support and regularly monitor RE across school.
- Have an annual budget to do this.
- Report regularly to the Governing Body, via the Subject Governor, so that everyone has an overview about progress and attainment in RE.
- Ensure RE provision reflects diocesan advice and recommendations.

Low Furness CE Primary School will be inspected under the SIAMS inspection schedule and will look at both:

- Effectiveness in ensuring that pupils flourish through the provision of high quality religious education.
- Effectiveness in ensuring that the subject expresses the school's Christian vision.

The policy is reviewed on a regular basis as part of the general policy cycle.

RE Subject Leader: Mrs Clare Rowland-Smith

Headteacher: Mrs Clare Rowland-Smith

Date: September, 2025

Review date: July, 2028

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-02/re-statement-of-entitlement-for-church-schools.pdf>

