**Religious Education at St John’s**

***‘Children are a gift from the Lord’ (Psalm 127 v.3)***

**The vision of our school**

***St. John’s is a caring, Christian community striving to support its members to achieve their God given potential. Exploring our unique gifts and raising aspirations, we prepare our children for the challenges of the modern world. Following Jesus’ example, we seek to grow good people who can make a difference.***

**A Vision Statement for Religious Education**

At St. John’s, our RE curriculum has been designed with the intention of enabling every child to flourish. The curriculum expresses and strengthens our vision, ethos and values which are at the heart of what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. As a school we recognise that a good quality R.E. curriculum has the potential to have the most powerful and lasting effect on a child’s heart and mind.

In our school where pupils and staff come from different faiths and none, religious education (RE) is a highly valued subject which combines academic skills with the development of character and spirit. The school’s RE curriculum is rich and varied. It studies a range of world religions and worldviews. At the heart of RE in this school is the teaching of Christianity as a living and diverse faith, rooted in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

As with all curriculum subjects, our school’s Christian vision drives all of our learning.

**God in our Lives**

At St John’s pupils are encouraged to know about, understand and respond to the important and ultimate questions of life. Our RE curriculum inspires pupils and offers them a safe place to explore, develop and affirm their own faith and values whilst having respect for the faith, beliefs and values of others. At St. John’s we encourage children to ask their own questions and openly challenge their teachers and each other in a respectful manner.

The RE curriculum prepares children for the challenges of the modern world. It enables children to develop sensitivity and respect for others. It breaks down barriers and builds communities.

**Ignite your fire**

We ignite a passion and curiosity for learning by providing a rich and engaging RE curriculum to inspire all learners to be the best that they can be. Pupils experience a balanced RE curriculum which explores religions and worldviews through theology, philosophy and the human and the social sciences. There are also opportunities to visit places of worship or interview visitors in school to help us to find out more about living faith.

We seek to grow good people who can make a difference to the world around them. Our RE study units provide opportunities to ‘meet’ individuals whose faith determined their paths in life. Children will find out about the way that faith has shaped the world around us and created the diverse society that we live in today

**Family**

At St John’s the RE curriculum enables understanding of how religion and beliefs affects our lives. In our school there is *“a commitment to generous hospitality, being true to our underpinning faith, but with a deep respect for the integrity of other religious traditions (and worldviews) and for the religious freedom of each person.” (Statement of Entitlement 2019)*

RE prepares children for citizenship in today’s diverse world. However, we recognise that our school serves a local community that is less diverse than many parts of the country. Therefore, it’s essential that our children learn about Christianity as a living, world faith. In addition, learning about other world faiths, helps our pupils develop sensitivity and respect for others, breaking down barriers and building communities.

**Truth**

RE provides opportunities for spiritual development and personal reflection. It provokes challenging questions about meaning and purpose, truth and values, identity and belonging. In a world when it’s not always seen as ‘cool’ to discuss faith or religion we want our children to be true to themselves and secure in their own view of the world. Through discussion and debate the children will develop a sense of justice for all, recognising that all of God’s children should be valued.

Throughout their RE lessons, the children will find out about some truly remarkable individuals who had the courage to be true to themselves, to stand up for others and their faith.