## The Academy at St James logo **Religious Education**

## **Curriculum Intent**

Religious Education is a key subject at the Academy at St James; the pupils have an entitlement to high-quality R.E. as part of a rich curriculum. Taught by class teachers, each child receives their entitlement of Religious Education, which equates to one hour each week. Pupils will be equipped with key knowledge to help them broaden their thinking and communicate effectively as part of their own spiritual development. Crucially, pupils will be afforded an open perspective to a world, where people of differing religions, faiths and practices are able to live as a cohesive community.

As a Church of England school, Christianity is given a greater share of learning time. However, other world faiths and non-religious views are also integral to the school’s R.E. curriculum. Living in a diverse community, it is vital that children have access to learning about different religious beliefs, investigate a range of views and can reflect on the values shared between very distinct cultures. Through engaging with and understanding the beliefs of others, pupils will be able to create their own balanced questions and informed beliefs about fundamental questions about life and what it means to have a faith.

## **Christian Values, Cultural Capital and Pupil Premium enhancements**

Our Religious studies are supported by the Understanding Christianity resource, and progression follows the agreed R.E. syllabus of the Leeds Diocese. Understanding Christianity provides a sequential teaching sequence aimed to ensure the children’s progression of skills and learning of key Biblical texts. The three strands of learning are: Making Sense of the Text, which involves reading and comprehending key messages; Making Connections in relation to the children’s experiences and knowledge of other texts; Understand the Impact on the daily lives of people practising faiths (including different denominations of Christianity) around the world.

In association with St James Church in Thornton and Rev. Harry Gwinnett, who assists our learning and worship, we have strengthened our Christian values and how they underpin all that we do as a school. Daily worship – featuring texts and practices from a variety of faiths – often involves a deep focus on how to live in a peaceful and respectful community. Alongside our R.E. lessons, children are taught about the Bible’s messages on how to live, the role model Jesus provides and God’s relationship with humanity.

Across all subjects, children are encouraged to question and share their own ideas – this is a key component of our R.E. curriculum. While developing knowledge and key facts are important, R.E. offers a safe environment to have open discussions and subjectively discuss beliefs. Hearing about peers’ practices and ideas not only widens understanding, but also develops understanding of both their and religion’s role in the modern society.

Our school is also dedicated to offering experiences for the children to develop their understanding of religion and pride in their own beliefs. Beyond visiting St James Church and weekly worships with Rev Harry, we invite visitors to discuss their faith and seek to organise trips to places of worship. Hand to Mouth have visited school in recent times for tailored sessions with pupils.