



# **Hey with Zion Church of England & Methodist Primary School**

## **Religious Education Policy**

Written by:	Mrs S Machin December 2025
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Next Review Date:	Summer 2028

**Hey with Zion has a joint Church of England and Methodist Foundation.**

**The values of LOVE, HOPE and ASPIRE alongside British Values (democracy, mutual respect, tolerance, individual liberty and the rule of law), permeate the school's ethos.**

We are a loving, inclusive family, rooted in our Christian Values and nurturing ethos. We provide a positive learning environment where all children can achieve their full potential.

### **Hey with Zion's Vision Statement**

**Jesus said, " I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."  
John 10 verse 10**

**Within the love of God, we aspire to do the best we can for ourselves and others.**

#### **Our Mission:**

Hey with Zion is a family in which everything we do is built upon our Christian values and ethos. We endeavour to create a place where everyone feels they belong, they are happy, nurtured, safe and valued.

Our mission is to:

- Kindle a love of learning for all children; enabling them to develop creative, inquiring minds and achieve high personal success through an excellent and enjoyable curriculum.
- Develop individuals to have self-knowledge to sustain a happy and healthy lifestyle filled with awe and wonder.
- Develop positive attitudes and behaviours and encourage children to form caring relationships as active citizens in the local and wider world.
- Enable our children to make right choices and take safe actions within their life experiences.
- Through challenge and high expectation prepare our children to reach their full potential by teaching academic and life-skills

### **Epworth Education Trust Mission Statement**

The Epworth Education Trust is a multi-School Trust established with the aim of providing outstanding learning and opportunities for the children within its care.

Children are our nation's most precious resource. Their school life and learning experience will shape them for the whole of their lives

## **Safeguarding Statement:**

At the Hey with Zion we recognise our moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children.

We work to provide a safe and welcoming environment where children are respected and valued. We are alert to the signs of abuse and neglect and follow our procedures to ensure that children receive effective support, protection and justice.

The procedures contained in the Safeguarding Policy apply to all staff, volunteers and Local Advisory Board.

Our core Christian Values at Hey with Zion Church of England and Methodist Primary School believes that to facilitate teaching and learning, acceptable behaviour must be demonstrated in all aspects of school life. We base our behaviour approaches on clear, specific expectations which can be seen in our School Rules, Habits for Learning and underpinned by our Christian values. This unique approach is bespoke to our school in line with how we 'do all we can' to support pupil development.

## **Religious Education Policy**

### **1. Legal Framework**

This policy will have consideration for and be in compliance with the following legislation:

- Education Act 2002
- School Standards and Framework Act 1998

This policy will also have due regard to the following statutory and non-statutory guidance:

- Religious Education in Schools – February 2010
- The rites, practices and doctrines of the Methodist Church and the Church of England.

### **2. Roles and Responsibilities**

The Local Advisory Board (LAB) and the Headteacher will fulfil their duty to:

- Ensure that RE is provided as part of Hey with Zion's curriculum.

The Local Advisory Board (LAB) and Headteacher must also ensure that:

- All pupils make progress in achieving the learning objectives of the RE curriculum.
- The teaching of RE is well led and effectively managed, and that standards and achievement in RE and the quality of the provision are subject to regular and effective self-evaluation.
- Those teaching RE are suitably qualified and trained in the subject and have regular and effective opportunities for continuous professional development (CPD).
- Teachers are aware of RE's contribution in developing pupils' understanding of religion and belief and its impact in promoting community cohesion.
- Where appropriate, pupils have opportunities to take courses which lead to an accredited qualification in the subject.
- Teachers explore how new pedagogies and technology can be fully utilised to support RE learning objectives and promote community cohesion.
- Clear information is provided for parents on the RE curriculum and the right to withdraw.
- RE is resourced, staffed and timetabled so that we can fulfil are legal obligations regarding RE and pupils can make good progress.

### **3. Policy Aims**

Although we live in a nominally Christian country, it is a fact that many children entering full time education have had little or no experience of either the Christian or any other World Faiths. We cannot, therefore, assume that even in a school with close church connections, pupils will have knowledge of any elements of the Christian Faith. This needs to be constantly kept in mind when considering our aims and objectives for Religious Education. The principal aim of Religious Education is to aid pupils on their spiritual journey. Every person is on a spiritual journey; discovering the things that matter, finding out what is of value to themselves, working out how to live, how to treat other people and how to find meaning in their lives. Our aim, then, for pupils of all ages, is to provide a framework in which individuals may explore these aspects of their lives.

Within the context of Religious Education our aim, is to provide stimuli enabling pupils to:

- Experience the physical world both in and out of the classroom

- Become aware of the mystery inherent in God, life and creation, understanding that there may be things that cannot easily be explained.
- Reflect upon the spiritual dimension in the aesthetic, creative and scientific domains.
- Develop morals, attitudes and understanding of the feelings, beliefs and customs of others and how these philosophies influence people's lives
- Know about the main beliefs, books and celebrations of Christianity, Islam, Judaism and Hinduism and show genuine appreciation and wonder
- Know that all faiths have special beliefs, rituals and books.
- Know about the Church of England and Methodist Heritage and understand the beliefs and philosophies of the Church of England and Methodism
- Grow to trust in the world as their parish.
- Capture their sense of worth and be inspired to live life in all its fullness
- Understand their calling to show love to others, in all the ways they can.
- Have knowledge of the rule of law, its impact on moral dilemmas and the challenges faced by society today.

#### **4. Teaching**

Christianity will be the main area of study in RE at Hey with Zion. Hey with Zion uses Oldham's Local Authority Agreed Syllabus for RE alongside Manchester Diocese Syllabus and the Methodist Church Guidance: Specific units focus on core Christian themes and Methodist distinctives, often in Years 2, 4, and 6.

RE will:

- Provoke challenging questions about the meaning and purpose of life, beliefs, the self, issues of right and wrong, and what it means to be human. As well as Christianity, it will also develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of other principal religions, and religious traditions that examine these questions, fostering personal reflection and spiritual development.
- Encourage pupils to explore their own beliefs (whether they are religious or non-religious), considering what they learn, as they examine issues of religious belief and faith and how these impacts on personal, institutional and social ethics; and to express their responses. This also builds resilience to antidemocratic or extremist narratives.

- Enable pupils to build their sense of identity and belonging, which helps them flourish within their communities and as citizens in a diverse society.
- Teach pupils to develop respect for others, including people with different faiths and beliefs, thereby helping to challenge prejudice.
- Prompt pupils to consider their responsibilities to themselves and to others, and to explore how they might contribute to their communities and to wider society. It encourages empathy, generosity and compassion and demonstrates our core school Christian Values.
- Each class will have a reflection area that demonstrates the beliefs and values of our school both in Christianity and Methodism with the John Wesley Rule being visible to be referred to.

## **5. Curriculum Planning**

The school follows Believing and Belonging in Oldham RE Agreed Syllabus for RE 2025. In conjunction with this syllabus, we use the Manchester Diocese RE Syllabus and the Methodist Church Guidance on the teaching of Christianity Years 2, 4 and 6. These planned units of work relate to: Belonging together: Why does it matter to be part of a community? What can we learn about Christians and community life? Warm Hearts: What does it feel like to experience God's presence? The life of John Wesley Commitment to Christianity: Is it long ago and far away, or is it here and now?

Class teachers are responsible for their own class organisation and teaching style in relation to Religious Education, while at the same time ensuring these compliments and reflect the overall aims and philosophy of the school and this policy.

## **6. Reflection Areas**

Reflection areas are part of every classroom. They are quiet, invitational spaces that are accessible to all children. They contain a prayer space. All spaces contain interactive activities around their class Christian Value for children to engage in. These are spaces where children can develop socially, morally, spiritually and culturally through innovative and imaginative techniques. Staff, children and the Ethos Committee evaluate the impact of these areas regularly and suggested additions and alternatives are responded to. We hope to enable children and young people to interact in their own way with an environment of prayer that includes opportunities to experience stillness, to express their thanks, hopes, dreams, questions and fears, and to explore ways of praying as practised by the saints of old and people today. Through interaction with these areas, opportunities are provided for children and young people to stop, think

and ask questions about their lives and the lives of others locally, nationally and globally, whilst considering the school's aim to learn, love and live without limits.

Through class worship, children are supported with ideas on how to use their area to reflect on their experiences, their beliefs, and their relationships with themselves, others and God, and to learn from this reflection.

## **7 Community Cohesion**

RE makes an important contribution to our duty to promote community cohesion. It provides key context to develop young people's understanding and appreciation of diversity, to promote shared values and to challenge racism and discrimination.

Hey with Zion Primary School will use RE to promote community cohesion:

- Through the exploration, promotion and celebration of diversity, beliefs and values.
- At the local level, investigating patterns of diversity of religion and belief, and forging links with different groups.
- At the national level, through the study of the diversity of religion and belief across the UK and how this influences national life.
- At the global level, through the study of matters of international significance, recognising the impact of the diversity of religion and belief on world issues. RE subject matter gives opportunities to promote an ethos of respect for others, challenge stereotypes and build understanding of other cultures and beliefs. This contributes to promoting an inclusive school ethos that champions democratic values and human rights.

## **7. Staffing and Training**

A well trained and confident workforce is crucial in ensuring good quality RE.

We will ensure that:

- All teachers can contribute to the teaching of RE, regardless of their personal beliefs.
- All teachers teaching RE are up to date with the latest regulations, guidance and best practice regarding RE.
- Right of Withdrawal Hey with Zion Primary School recognises the right of withdrawal of pupils from RE at the request of their parents. No reason needs to be given. Where a pupil has been withdrawn, the law provides for alternative arrangements to be made for RE of the kind the parent wants the pupil to receive. Where alternative arrangements cannot be met, the pupil may receive their RE externally and may be withdrawn from school for a reasonable period of

time to allow them to attend these classes. 10. Monitoring and Evaluating The Headteacher/RE leads monitors Teaching and Learning of RE through learning walks, book scrutiny and pupil interviews. Each class has a reflection book that includes photographs and evaluations that are not shown through written RE lessons. The Ethos Committee (including the School Child Chaplains and foundation governors) act as critical friends and further support and challenge the Headteacher/RE leads in providing the best quality RE and worship. The Headteacher/RE leads attend conferences and curriculum update meetings and disseminate this to wider school staff. The Headteacher is responsible for reporting on standards and developments in RE through termly written updates to committees and full Governors

### **3. Definition of Collective Worship**

3.1. For this policy, “**collective worship**” is an act which is additional to, and separate from, ordinary school activities. Collective worship is a time when individuals collaborate to promote the Christian values which are fundamental to the school’s ethos.

3.2. To “**take part**” in collective worship implies more than a passive attendance, such that it should have the ability to elicit responses from pupils even though they may not feel able to actively identify in the act of worship on a particular occasion.

### **4. Organisation and Planning**

4.1. The headteacher is responsible for creating the Long-Term Plan for collective worship.

4.2. The act of worship will be held for 20 minutes of the school day in the school hall for 4 days a week. The fifth weekly worship is held in class and children participate in a whole Trust worship with children leading this via a film from one of the eleven schools in the Trust.

4.3. Each worship session held will have a theme relevant to current affairs and topics agreed by the headteacher in conjunction with the Trust.

4.4. The content of all acts of collective worship will be considered to ensure suitability and relevance to pupils of all ages and backgrounds.

4.5. The headteacher will establish a detailed plan for collective worship to make sure progression from each session is carried on to the next, as well as to ensure that learning is practically applied by pupils to their lives inside and outside of school.

4.6. The school will endeavour to teach the pupils a wide range of worship songs to sing during collective worship.

4.7. The school may invite visitors or guest speakers to speak during collective worship, on the theme.

4.8. Joint church services are held in school with input from the Methodist, Church of England and the Catholic Church. All parents and carers as well as local community and congregations are welcome.

## 5. Weekly Collective Worship Programme

5.1. The school aims to deliver a varied collective worship programme to pupils. Pupils in early years take part in Wiggle Worship within their classrooms. On Thursday afternoon the parents and carers of the early years' children can celebrate good work and join in with the worship.

The current schedule for Collective Worship is outlined in the table below:

<b>Day of the week</b>	<b>Delivery of programme</b>
<b>Monday</b>	Headteacher leads on collective worship in the hall with all year groups.
<b>Tuesday</b>	Class led collective worship with Deputy or Headteacher. Worship in the hall with all year groups. Parents of the class invited.
<b>Wednesday</b>	Clergy led collective worship x3 out 4 weeks. With John Wilkinson on piano.
<b>Thursday</b>	Headteacher leads on 'Celebration' worship in the hall with all year groups. Parents invited.
<b>Friday</b>	Epworth Worship Together video in class.

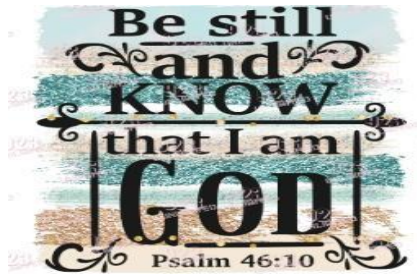
5.2. Each class will present whole school worships during the school year where parents/carers are invited to attend. These are linked to our weekly theme and our values of Love Hope and Aspire.

## 6. Implementation

6.1. The school aims to promote rich and meaningful experiences of collective worship that are appropriate to pupils' needs, ages and interests by:

- Involving children from the start with call and response. Prefects and children from Ethos Committee will lead prayers, drama and read from the Bible.

There is also a moment to encourage peace and stillness with a meditation using Psalm 46.10.



- Presenting displays that promote and enhance spiritual ideas and thoughts.
- Encouraging pupils to reflect and contemplate on their thoughts, feelings and beliefs. This includes completion of feedback sheets after worships to gather information on the impact of what they have heard and seen. Reflections are collected in a big book to also show impact.
- Using artefacts, secular stories, resources, music, art, drama and speakers to engage pupils' interest.  
**Prayer Net** – a ribbon is tied to the net for each prayer shared. The aim is to focus the children's minds.  
**Prayer Zion Lion** – a child is chosen to hold the bear during each prayer shared – again to focus children's minds.
- Involving pupils in different experiences of worship, e.g. silence, prayer, rituals, shared or written prayers, dance, drama, poetry etc.
- The development of the language of spirituality is based on Paul Rusby's 'looking up', 'looking out' and 'looking in'.

- Reflection areas in class also support children's spirituality and reflections. Areas contain questions to prompt children's thinking such as 'What makes your spirit shine?'

## **7. Right to withdraw**

7.1. Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship and are not required to provide a reason for doing so.

7.2. Parent/carers will be encouraged to discuss their decision with the headteacher following a request of withdrawal in terms of:

- The elements of worship in which the parent/carer would object to the pupil taking part.
- The practical implications of withdrawal.
- Whether the parent/carer will require notice in advance of such worship, and if so, what period of notice is preferred.

7.3. Withdrawal of a pupil usually involves their physical absence; however, if it is agreed so between the headteacher and parent/carer, the pupil may remain in the collective worship but will not be involved in any discussion.

7.4. The headteacher will arrange alternative provision for any pupil who is withdrawn from collective worship; this may involve religious worship relevant to their particular faith or denomination provided that:

- The effect of the alternative provision would not replace the denominational collective worship with that of the statutory, nondenominational worship.
- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school.
- The alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum.

## **8. Pupils with special educational needs and disabilities**

8.1. The school will consider pupils of different ages and abilities when delivering the collective worship programme.

8.2. Where appropriate, children with complex SEND will access worship with staff in classrooms using Wiggle Worship.

8.3. The school will arrange for learning mentors to assist pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) if the need arises.

## **9. Monitoring and review**

9.1. This policy will be reviewed every three years by the headteacher in agreement with the governing body.

9.2. This policy will be evaluated in accordance with feedback from questionnaires, pupil voice and class discussions.

9.3. Any changes made to this policy and the collective worship programme will be communicated to all members of staff.

9.4. The scheduled review date for this policy is September 2028.