



ELTHAM
CHURCH OF ENGLAND
PRIMARY SCHOOL
SINCE 1814

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

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MISSION STATEMENT

The school builds Christian values into its ethos and teaching in order to provide an excellent academic, social and spiritual education, preparing children for a responsive and contributive role in society. The school's motto was developed during our recent re-build in 2016/17 and summarises the school's values of Love, Forgiveness, Resilience, Understanding, Enthusiasm and Respect. It is the reply in Micah Chapter 6 when asked "What does the Lord require of you?"

To Act Justly, Love Mercy and Walk Humbly with your God

We do this by:

- Promoting and modelling Christian values within the school thereby encouraging personal integrity, consideration for others and understanding different viewpoints
- Offering an exciting curriculum, planned appropriately to be accessible to all, which enables all children to develop a positive self-image, achieve well and develop a love of learning
- Celebrating and valuing our school as a multi-cultural community
- Promoting effective problem-solving, communication and thinking skills
- Creating strong links between school, home, our parish church and the local community

STATEMENT OF ENTITLEMENT

The aims of Religious Education in Church schools are:

- To enable pupils to know about and understand Christianity as a living faith that influences the lives of people worldwide and as the religion that has most shaped British culture and heritage.
- To enable pupils to know and understand about other major world religions and world views, their impact on society, culture and the wider world, enabling pupils to express ideas and insights.
- To contribute to the development of pupils' own spiritual/philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own beliefs and values.

Appropriate to age at the end of their education in Church schools the expectation is that 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 other faiths and none.
- Reflect critically and responsibly on their own spiritual, philosophical and ethical convictions. Effective teaching and learning about Religions and World Views

Church schools have a duty to provide accurate knowledge and understanding of religions and world views. They should provide:

- A challenging and robust curriculum based on an accurate theological framework.
- An assessment process which has rigour and demonstrates progression based on knowledge and understanding of core religious concepts.
- A curriculum that draws on the richness and diversity of religious experience worldwide.
- A pedagogy that instils respect for different views and interpretations; and, in which real dialogue and theological enquiry takes place.

- The opportunity for pupils to deepen their understanding of the religion and world views as lived by believers.
- RE that makes a positive contribution to SMSC development.

Curriculum balance – Christianity should be the majority study in RE in every school. In Church schools that should be clearly adhered to.

- KS 1 – 3 at least 2/3rds Christianity.

Curriculum time – Sufficient dedicated curriculum time, meeting explicitly RE objectives, however organised, should be committed to the delivery of RE. This should aim to be

- close to 10% but must be no less than 5%.
NB: The RE entitlement is totally separate from requirements for Collective Worship.

Developing staff expertise – To demonstrate the subject's comparable status with other core curriculum areas in both staffing and resourcing, it should be a priority in Church schools to build up staff expertise in RE specifically but not exclusively, working towards:

- At least one member of staff having specialist RE training or qualifications.
- All staff teaching RE having access to appropriate professional development.
- All teaching staff and governors having an understanding of the distinctive role and purpose of RE within church schools.
- A governing body which monitors standards in RE effectively. Expected academic outcomes for pupils

Pupil achievement in RE should equal or be better than comparable subjects.

INTRODUCTION AND AIMS

- To help learners to develop a knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith
- To further learners growth and development through the study of Christian ethics, morals and values
- To provide opportunities for learners to study the practices, beliefs and values of other faiths.
- To foster sensitivity and respect for the beliefs of others
- To contribute to children's experience of Christianity as a living faith
- To establish a structured framework for the teaching of Religious Education using the schemes of work from Diocese of Southwark and Greenwich
- To provide opportunities for assessment and continuity of progress in the teaching of Religious Education from Year 1 to Year 6
- To foster a sense of awe and wonder of the world as God's creation
- To provide opportunities to reflect on feelings and beliefs
- To provide opportunities to explore a sense of commitment and discipleship
- To explore the various emotions experienced in life

THE RE SYLLABUS

At Eltham Church of England Primary School we follow the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education Religious Education Scheme of work for Primary Schools and supplement this with material from the Greenwich agreed syllabus. It is taught in units that have a balance between content, concepts and skills and progresses throughout the year groups.

ASSESSMENT

RE is assessed by class teachers. There is end of unit assessments that are placed in books where children are given the opportunity to reflect on their learning. Assessments

are formalised at the end of the year and it is decided whether a child has met the standard for that year in terms of AT1 and 2. Children who are meeting AT2 objectives are deemed to working at a higher level than those only accessing AT1 objectives.

MONITORING AND SELF-EVALUATION

The RE Co-ordinator in consultation with the EHT, HoS and Faith committee will evaluate the following:

- How well the school through its distinctive Christian character meets the needs of all learners.
- The impact of Collective Worship on the school community
- The effectiveness of Religious Education in the school
- The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the school as a church school

TIME TABLE/ORGANISATION

All classes experience a Religious Education Learning Session once a week. In Foundation Stage, the learning session lasts for approximately 20 minutes and is often integrated with other areas of learning, as suggested in the Early Years Guidelines. In Key Stages 1 and 2 the learning sessions are between 45 minutes and one hour. The class teacher is responsible for the planning and delivery of the learning session.

INCLUSION

The parent's right of withdrawal, as expressed in the 1988 Education Reform Act is respected. A parent must express in writing their wish to withdraw their child from the Religious Education Curriculum. Such pupils will be asked to sit in another classroom during the RE learning sessions and will not accompany their class on educational visits to places of worship.