



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 by the Faith Group during our 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 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 living, believing and thinking.

Curriculum balance and time: sufficient, appropriate and balanced:

- Reflecting the school's trust deed, parents and pupils are entitled to expect that in Church schools Christianity should be the majority religion studied in each year group and should be at least 50% of 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% in key stages 1-4.
- Schools must take note that the RE entitlement is totally separate from requirements for collective worship. Collective worship must not be considered curriculum time for RE or the teaching of RE.

Developing staff expertise and knowledge: confidence specialism professionalism:

- Pupils in Church schools are entitled to be taught by teachers who have a secure subject knowledge and are confident in helping them navigate and challenge cultural and religious stereotypes, prejudice and extremism.

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 RE qualifications or receiving specialist training.

- All staff teaching RE having access to subject specific professional development.
- All staff teaching RE knowing how to create and maintain classrooms in which academic rigour is balanced with respect for different personal beliefs and identities.
- All teaching staff and governors understanding of the distinctive role and purpose of RE within church schools.
- A governing body which is monitoring standards in RE effectively

INTRODUCTION AND AIMS

- To develop a strong foundation of the Christian faith through knowledge and understanding.
- To apply an understanding of Christianity to make reasoned and informed responses to life issues and moral choices.
- To recognise that there are a number of different branches of Christianity who may share common beliefs but interpret and practise their faith in different ways.
- To develop some knowledge and understanding of the other principal world faiths, applying an understanding of religion to develop informed respect, empathy and sensitivity towards all people and help build bridges of understanding leading to community cohesion.
- To grow and deepen their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- To develop the ability to reflect on their own beliefs, values and experiences and communicate issues of faith and truth.
- To develop skills of critical analysis and evaluation and the promotion of understanding of people from different faith backgrounds, and none, and of diversity within faiths.

THE RE SYLLABUS

At Eltham Church of England Primary School, we currently follow the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education (SDBE) 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 AT2. 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 HT, DHT 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.