



## **Religious Education Policy**

### **Aims and Objectives**

Religious education enables children to investigate and reflect on some of the most fundamental questions asked by people. At Elliott Park School we develop the children's knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith, but also to know and appreciate that there are other world religions, especially those that are the main faiths of children within our school. Children reflect on what it means to have faith and to develop spiritual knowledge and understanding. We help the children learn from Christian teaching as well as about Christianity.

The aims of religious education are to help children:

- develop an awareness of spiritual and moral issues in life experiences
- develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and to know that there are other major world religions and value systems found in Britain
- develop an understanding of what it means to be committed to a religious tradition
- be able to reflect on their own experiences and to develop a personal response to the fundamental questions of life
- develop and understanding of religious traditions and to appreciate the cultural differences in Britain today
- develop, investigate and research skills and to enable them to make reasoned judgements about religious issues
- have respect for other peoples' views and to celebrate the diversity in society

Parents may withdraw their child from Religious Education classes in school if they so wish, but being an independent school, upholding Christian principles, we would discuss at the initial interview with parents the advantages of all pupils attending the lessons. The Religious Education curriculum forms an important part of our school's spiritual, moral and social teaching and also promotes education for citizenship.

### **Teaching and Learning Style**

We base our teaching and learning style in RE on the key principle that it allows children both to learn about religious traditions and to reflect on what the religious ideas and concepts mean to them. Our teaching enables children to extend their own sense of values and promotes their spiritual growth and development. We encourage children to think about their own views and values in relation to the themes and topics studied in the RE curriculum. We use topics and religious festivals in assemblies throughout the school year such as Easter, Harvest, Christmas, Eid and Diwali etc to develop their religious thinking.

Children carry out research into religious topics. Sometimes they prepare presentations and share these with other members of the school in assemblies. We recognise the fact that all classes in our school have children of widely differing abilities, and so we provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child.

## **Religious Education Scheme of Work**

Our Religious Education Scheme of Work takes notice of the locally agreed syllabus in maintained schools. It is based on combining two year groups together and is therefore a two year rolling cycle to enable all children to access all topics.

We ensure that the topics studied in religious education build upon prior learning. We offer opportunities for children of all abilities to develop their skills and knowledge in each unit, and we ensure that the planned progression built into the scheme of work offers the children an increasing challenge as they move through the school.

Through our Religious Education lessons, we teach the children about the values and moral beliefs that underpin individual choices of behaviour. We also promote the values and attitudes required for citizenship in a democracy by teaching respect for others and the need for personal responsibility. In general, by promoting tolerance and understanding of other people, we enable children to appreciate what it means to be positive members of our pluralistic society.

Children consider and respond to questions concerning the meaning and purpose of life. We help them to recognise the difference between right and wrong through the study of moral and ethical questions. Children explore issues of faith and in so doing, they develop their knowledge and understanding of the cultural context of their own lives.

## **Teaching Religious Education to Children with Additional Needs**

In our school we teach RE to all children, whatever their ability. The teaching of RE is a vital part of our school curriculum policy, which states that we provide a broad and balanced education for all our children. When teaching RE we ensure that we provide learning opportunities matched to the needs of children with learning difficulties who require support, or those who require extension.

## **Assessment**

We assess children's work in Religious Education by making informal judgments as we observe them during lessons. We mark a piece of work once it has been completed and we comment as necessary. Children receive a written comment about their progress in Religious Education on their reports handed out in July.

## **Resources**

We have resources in our school to be able to teach all our religious education teaching units. There is a memory stick available marked RE with planning and some resources linked to the scheme of work and a good supply of RE topic books to support the children's individual research. Our resources are reviewed, and purchases made when necessary.

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### **Evaluation**

Evaluation is carried out to improve the teaching and learning of Religious Education within Elliott Park School. These areas are taken into consideration:

- Children's progress and achievements in Religious Education. Their work is looked at and assessed.
- Religious Education planning and resources.
- The content of our Religious Education Curriculum is reviewed to ensure that the local agreed syllabus is being fulfilled.
- Discussions with staff and children.