



## **Religious Education Policy**

**At Eaton Primary School Religious Education (RE) is taught objectively with the understanding that people lead meaningful, moral and fulfilling lives without faith as well as with faith.**

RE enables children to investigate and reflect on some of the most fundamental questions asked by people. At Eaton we develop the understanding of the beliefs of people of all faiths and none.

### **The aims of RE**

**Religious Education should help pupils to:**

- acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of world faiths
- develop an understanding of the influence of beliefs, values and traditions in individuals, communities, societies and cultures
- make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues with reference to the teachings of the principal religions
- develop an awareness of fundamental life questions and respond according to personal experience, beliefs and values
- cultivate reasoned, considerate and thoughtful self-expression
- aspire to tolerate and nurture mutual respect
- empathise, evaluate, question, relate and express
- look at the world with an inquisitive and unbiased perspective
- compare what is similar and different in the cultures and beliefs of different religions.
- Understand that people have different religious faiths or no religious faith
- Understand the right to both freedom of religion as well as freedom from religion

### **Curriculum planning in RE**

We plan our RE curriculum in accordance with the LEA's Agreed Syllabus. We ensure that the topics studied build upon prior learning. 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 so that all pupils can access RE. In accordance with the Agreed Syllabus, RE should be taught for 36 hours per year in Key Stage 1 (e.g. 50 minutes per week) and 45 hours per year in Key Stage 2 (e.g. one hour per week).

## **Assessment and recording**

We assess children's work in religious education by making informal judgements as we observe them during lessons. We mark a piece of work once it has been completed and comment as necessary. On an annual basis we make a summary judgement about the work of each pupil. We report to parents on annual reports if their child is above, below or in line with age related expectations in RE.

## **The legal position of RE**

The Education Act (1996) requires that religious education in community and voluntary controlled schools must be provided for all registered pupils in accordance with the local agreed syllabus. That every agreed syllabus shall reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Britain are in the main Christian whilst taking account of the teaching and practices of other principal religions represented in Britain. No agreed syllabus shall provide for religious education to be given to pupils at a community school by means of any catechism or formulary which is distinctive of a particular religious denomination (but this is not to be taken as prohibiting the study of such catechisms or formularies; (this means that religious education must not be taught from the point of view of any one church or faith but that denominational creeds and statements can be studied). The local education authority and the governing body shall exercise their functions with a view to securing, and the head teacher shall secure, that religious education is given in accordance with the agreed syllabus. Parents have the right to request the withdrawal of their child from part of or all religious education and teachers have the right to withdraw from teaching the subject.

**The headteacher and governing body are responsible for ensuring that legal obligations are met within RE.**

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