



*Eccleston C.E. Primary School Let
Our Light Shine*

Religious Education Policy

Curriculum Committee

Reviewed: Spring 2021

Approved by Curriculum Committee: Spring 2021

Approved by Full Governing Board: Spring 2021

Signed by Chair of Governors:

Review Date: Spring 2024

ECCLESTON C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

Religious Education Policy

Eccleston Church of England Primary School is committed to high quality learning for all, within the values and virtues of the Christian tradition.

The Christian values underpinning our school are;

Friendship, Forgiveness, Trust, Joy and Celebration, Thankfulness and Love.

THE IMPORTANCE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

To a Church school, religious education and collective worship should be seen as part of an integrated experience, with collective worship acting as an expression of what is taught in many RE lessons. Pupils gain a religious education in its fullest sense in a Church school through good, well-planned and well-organized collective worship, through the example of Christian teachers, and through the quality of RE teaching.

The Way Ahead, para 4.14

Religious Education provokes challenging questions about the ultimate meaning and purpose of life, beliefs about God, the self and the nature of reality, issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human.

Religious Education encourages pupils to learn from different religions, beliefs, values and traditions while exploring their own beliefs and questions of meaning.

(Religious Education: the non-statutory national framework)

Religious Education makes a distinctive contribution to pupils' learning by enabling them to reflect upon themselves as whole people, experiencing life through the body, the mind and the spirit. The purpose of Religious Education is to help pupils understand the significance of religion and its contribution to their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

(Cheshire Agreed Syllabus 'Encounter and Response')

Introduction

This document is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for the teaching and learning of Religious Education at Eccleston Church of England (Aided) Primary School.

The spiritual and moral development of our children underpins all aspects of our school life.

As a Church of England Aided school we believe religion underlines all aspects of the curriculum.

As a Church of England Aided school our aim is to build our school and our curriculum on Christian principles and practices, promoting moral and social responsibility, a concern for the environment and a respect for other faiths and cultures. A fundamental part of that is delivery of high quality, explicit RE teaching.

Legal Requirements

Eccleston Primary School is a Church of England Aided School; therefore Religious Education must be taught in accordance with the Trust Deed and should reflect the rites, practices and beliefs of the Church of England. The governing body is responsible for the subject in the school. This is delegated to the Headteacher and the Religious Education subject leader on a daily basis. The majority of work in Religious Education at Eccleston CE School will be based on the Christian faith with the introduction of one other major world religion - Judaism - at Key Stage 1, and then the study of Judaism, Hinduism, Islam and Sikhism at Key Stage 2.

Religious Education will be allocated not less than 5% of the timetable. In Key Stage 1 this amounts to between 40-50 minutes per week totalling 36 hours over the year. In Key Stage 2 children are taught Religious Education for 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ hours per week totalling 45 hours over the year. At Eccleston CE Primary School, staff ensure coverage by block planning units of work for each term.

Special Educational Needs

Children with special educational needs will work alongside the other children in their group, as in other curriculum areas, but differentiation in approach,

language and expected outcome will be appropriate to the varying needs in the class. We aim to meet the full entitlement of every child in our school. To optimize inclusion the children's differing needs for learning (including children with special educational needs) will be addressed through differentiated activities. I.E.P's and I.B.P's may support children who are identified as having special educational needs. These will specify differentiated learning and assessment. (See separate SEN school policy).

Equal Opportunities

Religious Education as an essential part of the curriculum should be relevant, worthwhile and accessible to all. It should express that all pupils are loved and valued by God as part of creation. We aim to help the children in our school to respect themselves and to be sensitive to the needs of others.

Withdrawals

Parents have a right by law to withdraw their children from the Religious Education curriculum. In this event, the school will undertake responsibility for the supervision of withdrawn pupils with regard to health and safety, and alternative work will be provided.

Aims

The purpose of teaching Religious Education in school is:

- To show children that Christianity is about following the living God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit and is relevant to their daily lives.
- To extend children's ability to reflect upon themselves as whole people, experiencing life through body, mind and spirit.
- To help pupils understand the significance of religion and its contribution to their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Principles

We aim through our teaching:

- To provide a course of Religious Education within the framework of the Diocese of Chester Religious Education Guidelines appropriate to the educational needs of the children in our school, at their different stages of development. We do this through the Rochester Scheme of work.
- To contribute to the spiritual, social and moral development of the school as a caring community and the pupils as individuals.
- To assist and encourage experience of Christian life and worship.
- Through study of major world religions to encourage an understanding and appreciation of the rich diversity of religious belief and practice in society today.

We aim to encourage the children in our school:

- To grow in awareness of others through learning activities involving sharing and co-operation and to develop trust and respect for others.
- To formulate their own sense of purpose in life and to embark upon a personal search for a faith by which to live.
- To learn something of the religious experiences of others.
- To develop their own beliefs, values and ideals in the light of their experiences
- To develop respect for other people, their beliefs and their life-styles.
- To develop an enquiring attitude towards religion and to explore activities of prayer and worship.

Entitlement

The children's entitlement is based upon two attainment targets, and these provide the basis for our planning and teaching:

AT1 Learning about Religion

....to gain knowledge and understanding of the beliefs and practices of Christianity in particular and world religions in general.

AT2 Learning from Religion

.....developing the capacity and skill to respond thoughtfully to and evaluate what they learn about religions.

In the main, Religious Education will be taught as a discrete subject although the approach may vary. For example in Key Stage 1 it may be more appropriate to integrate some areas of the Religious Study programme into a general topic with a thematic approach.

Religious Education in Eccleston CE School is organized using a whole school overview or plan. This lays out which units, or themes, should be studied by each year group.

Wherever possible all children will learn from primary source material as well as through the use of outside speakers with relevant experience and audio-visual aids. The work of Religious Education in the school may also be supported by visits to places of worship and drama workshops and visiting theatre companies.

Implementation

- Religious Education will be taught throughout the school, mainly by the class teacher, and may be supported from time to time by clergy from local churches and visiting speakers.
- Religious Education may be taught in a 'whole class' setting but with flexibility to allow for discussion, questioning and reflection in small groups and individually.
- Visits to local churches such as St Mary's, Eccleston, St Mary's, Pulford, and Chester Cathedral.
- A variety of teaching approaches are encouraged:
 - Teacher presentations, role play and story-telling;
 - Questions and answer sessions, discussions and debates;
 - Individual and group research;
 - Photographs, pictures and maps;
 - I.C.T, television, video, film, tape, CD, radio and PCs to research and communicate ideas.
- Religious Education may be integrated with other subjects as appropriate - for example ICT, History and PHSCE.
- Religious Education resources will be reviewed and updated regularly, considering budgetary constraints.

- Classroom support will be welcomed under the guidance of the teacher - e.g. skilled individuals and parents, etc.
- INSET will be included with the Strategic School Improvement Plan. External INSET will reflect budgetary constraints.

Organisation of Resources

Resources are stored in the bookcase adjacent to the Einstein Room. Each class teacher has a copy of the RE Resources Audit in their RE planning files. CWAC 'Topic Boxes' will also be ordered as required to supplement the resources already in school. Those resources include:

- Artefacts;
- Illustrated Bibles;
- Tapes, DVDs and CDs for use in assemblies and classes;
- Cross curricular material much of which related to RE topics;
- Teacher resources such as DBE guidelines, topic resources, faith in history;
- Information on outside learning and visit opportunities.

Role of RE Subject Leader - Monitoring and Evaluation

-
- The RE subject leader will keep a file of examples of work to demonstrate continuity and progression.
- The RE subject leader will manage resources.
- The RE subject leader will endeavour to keep up to date with information, initiatives and developments in Religious Education and disseminate this as appropriate.
- The RE subject leader will be aware of staff development needs and encourage continuing professional development.
- The RE subject leader will facilitate the sharing of good practice.
- The RE subject leader will be responsible for drawing up an action plan for Religious Education, in consultation with the Incumbent of the Parish of Eccleston & Pulford. Generally, this will be an annual plan and should be informed by this policy.