

East Bridgford St Peter's C. of E. Academy

Religious Education Policy



‘Striving for Life in All its Fullness’

Governor approved date: 15th June 2022
Review Date: June 2025

Our School Vision Impacts the Teaching of RE at East Bridgford St. Peter's C. of E. Academy

At East Bridgford St. Peter's C. of E Academy we are proud to be linked with the Church, its history, traditions, its role within our community, its Christian teaching and its people. We feel that the partnership we share is symbolic of the togetherness, commitment and challenge we want to build the success of our school on.

Our school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality in the context of Christian belief and practice which encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith. We are defined and driven as a school by a clear Christian ethos and set of Christian 'Take Care' values.

Our Vision Statement

Jesus said *'I have come that they may have life in all its fullness'* John 10:10.

We strive for life in all its fullness, for all our children, staff and school community.

Our vision for our Religious Education teaching is deeply Christian, with Jesus' promise of 'life in all its fullness' at its heart and our mission is that we strive to deliver this, on behalf of the children and families we serve. This vision forms the bedrock of our school here at East Bridgford St. Peter's CE Academy, where **Profound Personal Development** is our core purpose and we strive to help our pupils learn and grow through everything we do, whether it is worship, our curriculum, taking part in the activities and opportunities school provided, or simply through the way we relate to each other and our world and the way we care for each other. Here our Christian values, our sense of the spiritual, our R.E. and our social, moral and cultural education all come together to create our overall response to life, who we are and who we might become.

In line with the Church of England's role as the established Church, our vision is for the common good of the whole community.

Educating for wisdom, knowledge and skills: enabling discipline, confidence and delight in seeking wisdom and knowledge, and developing talents in all areas of life.

Educating for hope and aspiration: enabling healing, repair and renewal, coping wisely when things go wrong, opening horizons and guiding people into ways of fulfilling them.

Educating for community and living well together: a core focus on relationships, participation in communities and the qualities of character that enable people to flourish together.

Educating for dignity and respect: the basic principle of respect for the value and preciousness of each person, treating each person as a unique individual of inherent worth.

In this Church of England school, the Religious Education provided is in conformity with the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England as laid down in their vision for education.

R.E. as part of our Church school, goes far beyond classroom work and permeates the whole life of the school, being seen and felt by all who share in its life. It maintains a sense of the spiritual linked to the social, moral and cultural considerations which all go towards helping us grow into confident, well

adjusted, caring citizens. R.E., with its strong link to worship in school, is also about taking actions and making a difference. We seek to make it personal and we aim for R.E. to be meaningful for our children, grounded in our values, to make a difference and be distinctive.

Curriculum Content and Timetable Allocation

The school has adopted the Agreed RE Syllabus produced by the Nottinghamshire Diocese of Southwell. Along with the careful study of **Understanding Christianity** resources spanning across the primary age range from Foundation to Year 6, exploring the key theological and philosophical concepts of Creation, Incarnation and Salvation.

Following Diocesan guidelines, the proportion of the curriculum time to be allocated to RE should be approximately 5%. Within that, the balance of time allocated to Christianity should be 80% and to other faiths 20%. If appropriate, the non-Christian faiths should be drawn on when studying the syllabus units to develop and deepen understanding. This will also help to keep the balance of time spent on non-Christian faiths while following all the units of the Diocesan syllabus. The other faiths studied will be predominantly, Judaism, with Hinduism and Sikhism and Islam, as subsidiary areas following the Nottinghamshire Agreed Syllabus.

All of our R.E. is shaped to ensure our children understand the importance of equality and is taught in line with the challenges and requirements of the 2010 Equality Act. The way our school is driven through a clear sense of Christian value ensures that 'British Values', especially those of integrity, care and respect are not only taught but made real and personal.

Collective Worship

The spiritual moral and cultural values of our school are embedded in our Collective worship, where children will learn about our half termly Christian values. Christian Values are at the heart of our school and guide how we treat each other. This ensures a sense of common purpose and mutual respect within our school community and beyond. Our Christian character impacts upon the achievement of each child, including academic and personal development of all learners, together with their well-being and spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

As a school we strive to follow **Roots and Fruits** two-year programme of creative collective worship rooting Christian values in stories from the bible and seasons of the church calendar for our thematic approach to worship.

Community Living Well Together – Our Local Church Links

We are fortunate to have warm partnerships with the local church St Peter's, East Bridgford. The children are given many opportunities to experience church services, Foundation welcome services, Harvest Festivals, Christmas, Easter and Year 6 Leavers services to name a few. In addition to this we have extra special religious events held at St Peter's church. Our Church services are open to all members of our school community and we practice kind hospitality to our community in opening school afterwards to our friends and families who attend our services.

Curriculum Impact in the Teaching of RE

Our curriculum impact in the teaching of Religious Education at East Bridgford St. Peter's CE Academy, is to establish life in all its fullness for all our pupils, through:

Allowing children to discover more about themselves, others and God.

All staff follow our Curriculum Map for Religious Education for the whole school, which carefully plans units to meet the needs of

1. The Agreed Syllabus
2. Understanding Christianity
3. Other Faiths

Encourage children's values and spiritual development to be explored and experienced throughout the whole school. This links well with our www.1decision.co.uk programme which provides social and emotional learning.

RE will support children and young people in developing their own beliefs, values and attitudes through an exploration of what they think and believe in a discursive, engaging and practical way. Opportunities to be courageous advocates by encouraging children to be compassionate individuals, to seek to help those weaker members of our society e.g. taking care of our environment –global citizenship and charities chosen by house captains through our House System Developing Young Leaders, for example, becoming RotaKids.

To be reflective of our school values shared in Collective Worship and to write reflective personal accounts of our shared times together.

Personal child voice in collective worship, where children share poems, prayers and reflections.

Our **school prayer** is signed using British sign language and has evolved to be led by children.

<https://www.eastbridgfordstpeters.co.uk/church-school/>

Developing an interactive class reflection area, which can be referenced throughout the week, to nurture skills of wisdom, dignity and respect in our pupils

In our school, our Religious Education endeavours to:

- Nurture pupils own personal faith within a clear ethos of respect for those children of different faiths.
- Contribute to pupils' personal development spiritual, moral social and cultural development. Give pupils a sound knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith.
- Give pupils the opportunity to explore the nature of religious language and symbolism.
- Value pupils own faith and introduce them to other world faiths.
- Experience Christian faith and places of worship.
- Prioritising the well-being of our pupils in our school through www.1decision.co.uk lessons and through **Picture News** which is an assembly tool with a Church school focus.

(Our PSHE programme 1 Decision, focuses on children's wellbeing, with lessons primarily providing children with teaching through discussion and decision options, on how we should treat one another in order to live as happy well balance people both today and in the future.)

Assessment in RE

We aim for assessment in RE to be an integral part of the whole school assessment cycle and ensure that processes are meaningful, manageable and creative. We believe the purpose of assessment in R.E. should:

- Always be used to inform future learning through extending knowledge and development of skills.
- Give opportunity for children to demonstrate their understanding of religion and worldviews.
- Enable children to express their thoughts, questions and ideas in a variety of ways.
- Enable children to make sense of the text, make connections and demonstrate their understanding of the impact of key Christian concepts in the world in which they live.

Practicalities of assessment in RE

All members of staff are to regularly mark and assess their children's written work in RE. These assessments will form the basis for their judgements about each child's progress in the subject. All staff have access to a progression skills ladder for RE which mentions the different levels of response from pupils to demonstrate their growing knowledge and understanding of the core concepts of RE.

Teachers are to carry out an assessment of where they consider their children to be in their religious development, according to how their understanding of the religious concepts has been expressed during RE lessons. In order to make a judgement of learning for an individual child, it is suggested that the steps from the Locally Agreed Syllabus be used as a framework to establish 'secure' learning. This can be usefully linked to the Outcomes of learning for each unit of the Understanding Christianity resource

Capturing evidence

A range of evidence can be gathered to inform a teacher's judgement. Examples could include: RE books, artwork, outdoor learning, annotated dialogue, drama/role- written responses.

We also ensure that children have the opportunity to reflect on and record their learning. Each class has its own Reflection Book and **RE**reflection Area.

Updating the Religious Education Policy

It is to be reviewed every 3 years (or earlier if deemed necessary) by the RE subject leader before being presented to staff and Governors.

The RE co-ordinator alongside the Head Teacher is responsible for implementation/co-ordination of the policy. Next to be reviewed Summer term 2025 and in line with any new initiatives locally or nationally for the teaching of RE in primary school adopted.