



# Eton Porny C. of E. First School Policy Document

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

<b>Category:</b> Non-statutory	<b>Approved by Head Teacher:</b> <i>E. Stanford-Smith, July 2023</i>
<b>Reviewed by:</b> Emma Stanford-Smith, June 2023	
<b>Review Schedule:</b> As required	<b>Overviewed by LGB:</b>
<b>Next Review Date:</b> As required	<i>M. Waller, July 2023</i>

*We are all created unique and special.*

*He made us all perfect having our own uniqueness.*

*1 Peter 4:10-11 'God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts.*

*Use them well to serve one another'.*

### INTRODUCTION

Religious Education is unique in the school curriculum in that it is neither a core subject nor a foundation subject but the 1988 Education Act states that 'Religious Education has equal standing in relation to core subjects of the National Curriculum in that it is compulsory for all registered pupils'. In sympathy with 'Valuing All God's Children' and 'the Church of England's Vision for Education', Religious Education is taught in our school because it makes:

*"a major contribution to the education of children and young people. At its best, it is intellectually challenging and personally enriching. It helps young people develop beliefs and values, and promotes the virtues of respect and empathy, which are important in our diverse society. It fosters civilised debate and reasoned argument, and helps pupils to understand the place of religion and belief in the modern world".*  
(RE: realising the potential, Ofsted 2013).

This fits with our Christian School Vision of:

*We are all created unique and special.*

*He made us all perfect having our own uniqueness.*

*1 Peter 4:10-11 'God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts.*

*Use them well to serve one another'.*

**Eton Porny Church of England First School** is an Academy that is Voluntary Controlled. Our Religious Education curriculum is based around the SACRE syllabus using *Discovery RE* programme and the Diocesan material *Understanding Christianity* programme as our schemes of work.

This RE policy is informed by current national guidance:

- RE in English Schools: Non-statutory guidance 2010 ([Guidance](#))
- RE : realising the potential Ofsted 2013 ([www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/religious-education-realising-potential](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/religious-education-realising-potential))
- A Curriculum Framework for RE in England, REC 2013 ([Curriculum framework](#))
- "Valuing all God's Children" ([Valuing all God's Children](#)), "Making a Difference" (which includes the Church of England Statement of Entitlement) ([Making a difference](#)) and the 2023 SIAMS inspection framework ([SIAMS Framework September 2023.pdf \(churchofengland.org\)](#))

### THE AIMS OF OUR RE, USING THE DISCOVERY RE SCHEME OF WORK

Discovery RE meets the requirements of our locally agreed syllabus and is aligned to the non- statutory guidance described above. By following Discovery RE at Eton Porny we intend that Religious Education will:-

- **adopt an enquiry- based approach** as recommended by Ofsted, beginning with the children’s own life experience before moving into learning about and from religion.
- **provoke challenging questions** about the meaning and purpose of life, beliefs, the self, and issues of right and wrong, commitment and belonging. It develops pupils’ knowledge and understanding of Christianity, other principal religions, and religious traditions that examine these questions, fostering personal reflection and spiritual development.
- **encourage pupils to explore their own beliefs** (religious or non-religious), in the light of what they learn, as they examine issues of religious belief and faith and how these impact on personal, institutional and social ethics; and to express their responses.
- **enable pupils to build their sense of identity and belonging**, which helps them flourish within their communities and as citizens in a diverse society.
- **teach pupils to develop respect for others**, including people with different faiths and beliefs, and helps to challenge prejudice.
- **prompt pupils to consider their responsibilities** to themselves and to others, and to explore how they might contribute to their communities and to wider society. It encourages empathy, generosity and compassion.
- **develop a sense of awe, wonder and mystery.**
- **nurture children’s own spiritual development**
- **Ensure that our Religious Education helps to develop religiously literate pupils as per the 2018 SIAMS inspection framework.**

### Discovery RE Content

Discovery RE covers all areas of RE for the primary phase, Christianity plus one other religion is taught in each year group. We use a mix of units from Discovery RE and Understanding Christianity to teach Christianity and use Discovery RE to teach them additional religions. The grid below shows specific enquiries for each year group.

#### Reception:

Discovery Enquiry	Religions studied:
What makes people special?	Christianity, Judaism
What is Christmas?	Christianity (Understanding Christianity)
How do people celebrate?	Hinduism
What is Easter?	Christianity (Understanding Christianity)
What can we learn from stories?	Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism
What makes places special?	Christianity, Islam, Judaism

#### Year 1:

Discovery Enquiry	Religions studied:
Does God want Christians to look after the world?	Christianity
What gift might Christians in my town have given Jesus if he had been born here rather than in Bethlehem?	Christianity
Was it always easy for Jesus to show friendship?	Christianity
Why was Jesus welcomed like a king or celebrity on Palm Sunday?	Christianity
Is Shabbat important to Jewish children?	<a href="#">Judaism</a>
Are Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur important to Jewish children?	Judaism

**Year 2:**

<b>Discovery Enquiry</b>	<b>Religions studied</b>
Is it possible to be kind to everyone all of the time?	Christianity
Why do Christians believe God gave Jesus to the world?	Christianity
Does praying at regular intervals every day help a Muslim in his/her everyday life?	Islam
How important is it to Christians that Jesus came back to life after His crucifixion?	Christianity
Does going to a Mosque gives Muslims a sense of belonging?	Islam
Does completing Hajj make a person a better Muslim?	Islam

**Year 3:**

<b>Discovery Enquiry</b>	<b>Religions Studied</b>
Does joining the Khalsa make a person a better Sikh?	Sikhism
Has Christmas lost its true meaning?	Christianity
Could Jesus really heal people? Were these miracles or is there some other explanation?	Christianity
What is "good" about Good Friday?	Christianity
Do Sikhs this it is important to share?	Sikhism
What is the best way for a Sikh to show commitment to God?	Sikhism

**Year 4:**

<b>Discovery Enquiry</b>	<b>Religions studied</b>
Is it possible for everyone to be happy? Can Buddha's teachings make the world a better place?	Buddhism
What is the most significant part of the nativity story for Christians today?	Christianity
What is the best way for a Buddhist to lead a good life?	Buddhism
Is forgiveness always possible for Christians?	Christianity
Do people need to go to church to show they are Christians?	Christianity
Why are there four Gospels and how are they relevant to Christians today?	Christianity

**HOW IS RE ORGANISED IN THIS SCHOOL?**

Discovery RE brings together learning about and from religion, questioning and spiritual development in a comprehensive scheme of learning. Teaching strategies follow our Pedagogy and Curriculum policies and ensure that individual needs are met. Each enquiry starts from the children's own life experiences using these as a bridge into the investigation of the religion being studied.

Learning is assessed and children have opportunity to express their own thoughts and beliefs and empathise with believers of that religion or belief position.

At Eton Porny RE is taught as a discrete subject although sometimes aspects of RE do link with other project work. Lessons are taught by the Class Teachers and as a Church of England School we ensure that sufficient dedicated curriculum time is given to RE reflecting the Church of England Statement of Entitlement.

**ASSESSMENT**

Teachers are eager to ensure children are making progress with their learning throughout their RE. Therefore, each KS1/KS2 enquiry has built-in assessment. This task is the formal opportunity for teacher assessment of the children's knowledge of that religion, depth of critical thinking, and ability to answer the enquiry question. This stand-alone evidence is used in conjunction with other evidence such as records of discussions and annotations from other lessons within the enquiry to assist the teacher in assessing whether a child is working at the expected level or towards or beyond it. Children are assessed over three aspects of learning:

- a personal resonance with or reflection on the material/religion being studied to answer the enquiry question.
- knowledge and understanding of the material/religion being studied to answer the enquiry question.
- evaluation/critical thinking in relation to the enquiry question

These are tracked throughout the planning stage so that teachers can utilise the appropriate evidence accordingly. In line with non-statutory guidance issued by the RE Council in 2013 (cited on page 1) descriptors of these aspects utilise age-related expectations of working towards, working at the expected attainment and working beyond.

### **Recording and tracking progress**

To support the teacher in tracking each child's progress throughout the year, there is an overview sheet for each enquiry on which to record the progress of the whole class. This supports teacher overview and facilitates monitoring and moderation by the Foundation Subject Team. This enables us to ensure that all children achieve well and make consistent progress.

### **Reporting to Parents/Carers**

The assessment process described above helps teachers report to parents/carers. Discovery RE enquiries give teachers meaningful evidence to cite in reports.

## **MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

The Foundation Subject Team monitors delivery of the programme through observation, learning walks and discussion with teaching staff, as well as discussions with children and scrutiny of their written work to ensure consistent and coherent curriculum provision.

Evaluation of the programme's effectiveness is conducted on the basis of:

- Pupil and teacher evaluation of the content and learning processes
- Staff meetings to review and share experience
- Monitoring of assessment to ensure progression throughout the school.

## **EXTERNAL CONTRIBUTORS**

RE gives particular opportunities to promote an ethos of respect for others, challenge stereotypes and build understanding of other cultures and beliefs. This contributes to promoting a positive and inclusive school ethos that champions democratic values and human rights. The British Values agenda is intrinsic to Discovery RE and a map of coverage is available on request.

External contributors from the community, e.g. local clergy, other local members of the community etc make a valuable contribution to the RE programme as do visits to places of worship. Their input is carefully planned and monitored so as to fit into and complement the programme.

Teachers are always present during these sessions and remain responsible for the effective delivery of the RE programme.

## **THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT**

Establishing a safe, open and positive learning environment based on trusting relationships between all members of the class, adults and children alike, is vital. To enable this, it is important that respect for each others' views and beliefs and those of the believers of that religion is encouraged at all times and that any artefacts are handled with respect and care.

For example: Sensitive and controversial issues are certain to arise in learning from real-life experience and discussing personal beliefs.

Topics are presented using a variety of views and beliefs so that pupils are able to form their own, informed opinions but also respect that others have the right to different opinions. Teachers should never feel obliged to discuss their own beliefs unless they feel comfortable doing so and can ensure that this will not influence or restrict the children's own expression. We uphold the Christian ethos of the school whilst still respecting the beliefs and views of others.

### **WITHDRAWAL FROM RE LESSONS**

Parents may withdraw their children from all or any part of religious education and teachers can exercise their right to withdraw from teaching the subject. However, we hope that all parents and teachers will feel comfortable with the type of religious education being taught at this school. Parents who wish to withdraw their children are asked provide written notification to this effect.

### **LINKS TO OTHER POLICIES AND CURRICULUM AREAS**

We recognise the clear link between RE and the following policies and staff are aware of the need to refer to these policies when appropriate.

- Collective Worship
- Pedagogy Policy
- Curriculum Policy
- Equal Objectives and Information Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- School Christian Values Document

### **TRAINING AND SUPPORT FOR STAFF**

All staff benefit from training in order to enhance their RE delivery skills. Opportunities are provided for staff to identify individual training needs on a yearly basis and relevant support is provided.

In addition to this, support for teaching and understanding RE issues is incorporated in our staff INSET programme, drawing on staff expertise and/or a range of external agencies.