



East Brent
C of E Academy

Where a Love of Learning is Nurtured and Enriched

RE Policy



Date Agreed	September 2024
Review Date	September 2025

In our school our Christian vision shapes all we do. Our school foundations are led through inclusive Christian Values that centre the children as the pearls of our school community. Our theologically rooted vision links to the Parable known as the **Pearl of Great Price, Matthew 13:44**, which teaches us that the Kingdom of God is a treasure more precious than anything in this world. Just as we inspire children as learners, we encourage them to believe in themselves, respect one another and understand the importance of showing peace and love in the world that God created for us all. The children are upheld as the 'pearls' of our school.

We believe values help define our character and ethos and by doing so affect our behaviour, beliefs and actions. They are our guide for living a life that will help all flourish.

At East Brent CofE Academy our Christian Values are represented through six words that give purpose, direction and a firm grounding in all we seek to do. These are present among our school community and feature as a focus during each half term.

Peace – Endurance – Aspiration – Respect – Love - Service

'Religious education in a Church school should enable every child to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10). It will help educate for dignity and respect encouraging all to live life well together.'

- RE Statement of Entitlement from the Church of England Education Office Feb 2019

Policy Statement

Religious Education (RE) has a very high profile within the East Brent curriculum and makes a significant contribution to preparing pupils for life in modern Britain. Learning activities provide fully for the needs of all learners. Pupils will be inspired by the subject and develop a wide range of skills such as enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and reflection, to deepen their understanding of the impact of religion on the world. Christianity is taught as a living and diverse faith, focused on the teachings of Jesus and the Church, alongside a range of religions and worldviews. Religious Education encourages pupils to learn from different religions, beliefs, values and traditions while creating a safe space for them to explore their own beliefs and questions of meaning.

Legal Requirements

As an academy, at East Brent we are independent of the local authority and not required to follow the national curriculum or the local RE syllabus. However our curriculum must reflect: 'that religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, whilst taking account of the teachings and practices of the other principle religious traditions present in Great Britain.' [Education Reform Act 1988]. The school teaches religious education according to the Somerset agreed syllabus, with additional teaching on Christianity through the Understanding Christianity syllabus.

Section 48 of the 2005 Education Act requires the inspection of religious education in schools which have a religious character. This is the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS)

Manging the right to withdraw

Parents have a right by law to withdraw their children from the Religious Education curriculum. In this event, we will undertake responsibility for their supervision with regard to health and safety. Information on these arrangements are clear on our website. There will always be opportunity for parents to discuss the contents of the RE curriculum should they have concerns.

Aims of RE

- To enable pupils to know about and understand Christianity as a living faith that influences the lives of people worldwide and as the religion that has most shaped British culture and heritage.
- To enable pupils to know about and understand other major world religions and world views, their impact on society, culture and the wider world, and to appreciate the diversity, continuity and change within those religions and world views
- To engage with challenging questions of meaning and purpose
- To contribute to the development of pupils' own spiritual/philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own beliefs and values.

Teaching and Learning

In line with the Church of England RE Statement of Entitlement [2019], at East Brent Church of England Academy we aim to provide:

- A curriculum that enables pupils to acquire a rich, deep knowledge and understanding of Christian belief and practice
- A curriculum that draws on the richness and diversity of religious experience worldwide
- The opportunity for pupils to deepen their understanding of the religion and world views as lived by believers
- A pedagogy that instils respect for different views and interpretations; and, in which real dialogue and theological enquiry takes place
- Engaging and varied learning activities that provide for the needs of all learners, supported by high quality resources
- The opportunity for pupils to develop a wide range of skills including enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and reflection

- RE that makes a positive contribution to SMSC development and also to pupils' understanding of British values
- An assessment process which has rigour and demonstrates progression based on knowledge and understanding of core religious concepts

Implementation

- 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 and other places of worship are encouraged
- A variety of teaching approaches are encouraged:
- Teacher presentations, role play, drama and story telling
- Questions and answer sessions, discussions and debates
- Individual and group research
- Photographs, pictures and maps
- IT, film, podcasts, radio, websites, to research, communicate ideas and promote discussion

Curriculum balance and time

As a Church of England Academy, Christianity is the majority religion studied. Every class has a timetabled weekly 1 hour RE lesson with additional teaching time given to special religious festivals and celebration such as Harvest Festival, Christmas and Nativities, Christingle Service and Easter Service. In the Foundation Stage pupils will be introduced to a range of faith traditions, At Key Stage 1 pupils study Christianity and Judaism and non-religious views (eg Humanism) are also represented. At Key Stage 2 pupils study Christianity, Judaism and Hinduism and non-religious views (eg Humanism) are also represented.

Monitoring, Evaluation, Assessment, Recording, Reporting

The Local Partnership Board have responsibility for monitoring how the RE in the school reflects its Christian vision

- The headteacher has overall responsibility for monitoring and evaluation.
- The RE subject leader will assist the headteacher by monitoring long term and medium term plans.
- The RE subject leader will assist the headteacher by monitoring RE through work scrutinies

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