

Egton Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School



Policy for R.E.

Effective Date:	3 rd July 2014
Date Due for Review:	June 2016
Approved By:	Governing Body
Approval Date:	3 rd July 2014

Statement

R.E. will be taught in accordance with the requirements of the “instrument of Government” and will reflect the Anglican foundation of the school. Religious Education in Aided schools is determined by the Governing Body. In York Diocese, the Archbishop is seen as the interpreter /arbitrator of the denominational aspects of the Instrument of Government. This gives the authority for the Diocesan Guidelines to be used in Church Aided schools to meet their legal obligation in fulfilling the requirements of their distinctive Christian foundation. We will also be mindful of the Education Reform Act 1998 stating that “R.E. is a valid discipline in its own right, which acknowledges the spiritual nature of human beings”. We hope, through this policy and our work, to promote a caring school community in which sound **FRIENDSHIPS** flourish based on mutual **RESPECT** and **TRUST** for others.

Our school mission statement is:

Our mission is to inspire learning and develop children’s potential as individuals in a caring, happy and distinctively Christian family.

Aims

Our aims reflect the key aims and purposes found in the Diocesan Syllabus 2013 – See Appendix 1

- to ensure that R.E. has a major part to play in the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of children
- to encourage children to enjoy learning about Christianity and other world religions
- to help children be aware of the spiritual dimension of being human and to find meaning in life
- to recognise and respect all faiths, including other principal faiths of Britain, in their search for God and expression of truth
- to give children confidence in exploring faiths using imagination and creativity
- to enable children to work collaboratively and be sensitive to the views of others
- to develop skills and techniques in order to discover more about religions and religious people e.g. ICT, literacy, history
- to explore our local Christian History

Learning and Growing Together with God

- to create a safe and secure place in which children may express their faith, doubts, ideas and thoughts
- to use R.E. in cross-curricular ways e.g. links with collective worship, art, drama, music and PHSCE
- to experience a variety of expressions of God and the wideness of the Anglican tradition as well as the churches year
- to experience awe, wonder and mystery and reflect and respond appropriately
- to recognise and live out Christian Values such as **FRIENDSHIP, TRUST AND RESPECT**
- to visit places of worship and welcome visitors

The headteacher will:

- set high expectations and monitor teaching and progress
- encourage a whole school approach, keeping parents, governors and all support staff well informed
- be the co-ordinator and support individual teachers enabling them to attend appropriate training
- show enthusiasm for the subject, which will permeate throughout the school.
- allocate appropriate time for R.E.
- allocate an appropriate budget for R.E.
- monitor overall quality of provision for R.E.
- build in termly, where possible, subject leader time to plan, monitor, observe and audit resources
- liaise with the local Parishes of Egton and Grosmont and to enable visits and links to occur
- will ensure that not less than 5% of the timetable will be allocated to RE and this will be enhanced by themed weeks and projects
- will ensure that the York Diocesan Guidelines for Religious Education is followed based on the Christian faith with the introduction of Judaism in KS1 and Judaism, Hinduism, Sikhism, Judaism and Islam at KS2

The Governors will:

- form an RE Team responsible for the implementation of the York Diocese RE Syllabus 2013, monitoring and liaison with the Headteacher
- be well informed and show enthusiasm to encourage the development of all R.E. throughout the school through the leadership of the Headteacher and R.E. co-ordinator
- support the staff in implementing the school's policy for RE
- monitor and review progress regularly on the RE Action plan
- be encouraged to interact in school and in church sharing their own talents and insights!
- appoint staff who are actively supportive of the aims and ethos of a church school
- familiarise themselves with the mission, aims and values statements and ensure their implementation
- develop, approve and implement a Religious Education policy
- ensure that Religious Education plays an important part in the life of the school
- ensure adequate allocation of time for the subject
- monitor provision for denominational education within the school's budget so that sufficient resources are available for the delivery of excellent Religious education which is both challenging and exciting for all pupils

- review an anonymised summary of pupil progress termly for RE

The Co-ordinator (headteacher) will:

- lead by example showing an enthusiasm and understanding of RE
- offer support to teachers in planning, teaching and assessing
- work alongside the RE Team to monitor and evaluate teaching and progress
- identify, plan and develop in-service training needs
- manage and co-ordinate resources for RE

The Teachers will:

- ensure that the correct amount of teaching time, over each term is spent on teaching R.E.
- share clear learning objectives with the children
- supplement teaching using relevant up to date and stimulating resources
- ensure that children of all abilities have access to the R.E. curriculum and know that they are special
- incorporate R.E. across the curriculum through planning and use of 'What if..' learning where appropriate
- ensure that children have the opportunity to work individually and collaboratively
- use the Diocesan Syllabus to inform planning focussing on the programmes of study
- use a range of teaching styles, media and resources including ICT
- encourage links with local churches and visiting speakers and members of the PCC as well as the mother church York Minster
- develop an awareness of the cultural diversity of many faiths and traditions through class based learning, trips, visits and visitors
- gain advice and support from members of the diocesan team and members of the clergy
- ensure a balance between learning about religion and learning from religion
- facilitate listening to religious psalms, songs and music
- access good quality artefacts, to use with respect and confidence, to support the teaching of all religions
- to create spaces and times for prayer and reflection throughout the school

The SENCO will:

- support the R.E. Co-ordinator in teaching children with special educational needs and encourage whole class inclusion where possible
- use the detailed objectives in the Syllabus when preparing individual education plans
- keep up to date with resources and ensure members of staff are made aware of any relevant information or resources
- implement intervention strategies when necessary

The Children will be encouraged to:

- Explore ultimate questions, including religious and spiritual questions, for themselves;
- Respond sensitively to the idea of life as a journey and think about how their journey is going
- Understand the core of Christian beliefs, identifying what impact belief may have
- Explore the meaning and application of some sacred texts, including teaching and stories from the Bible, moving towards their own understandings and interpretations
- Respond to teaching about Christian visions of life simply, for themselves

Learning and Growing Together with God

- Recognise and describe some examples of the variety of ways of living in different Christian communities
- Begin to respond sensitively to Christian ideas and visions for themselves
- Show understanding of and respect for the different religions and beliefs in Britain
- Describe and explain similarity and difference in aspects of belief and practice in religions studied
- Engage with life as a search for truth
- Develop knowledge, awareness and understanding of other principal faiths in Britain

The Support staff will:

- be included in staff training for R.E. where appropriate
- have a clear understanding of their role in each lesson
- share the learning objectives of each lesson and know the key vocabulary to be developed
- be encouraged to share their own skills and talents

The Parents will:

- be encouraged to develop positive attitudes to the school's approach to R.E. and its relationship with the local and wider church
- be well informed of their children's progress through annual reports and parents evenings
- be encouraged to share their own skills and talents

Assessment will:

- be termly throughout the year
- be discussed with other staff members
- take account of work produced by pupils working with the Diocesan Syllabus
- not be solely on evidence of achievement in written work
- take place in planned opportunities for assessment as well as in opportunities that arise during learning activities
- be based on various strategies for example, personal responses through art, poetry, dance, drama, self assessment, inventing games, peer discussion, marking conversations and audio visual presentations
- be measured against the clear I can Statements in the Diocesan Syllabus ensuring progression across key stages
- the impact of RE will be a significant part of the school's self-evaluation document

Resources:

- Diocesan Guidelines and Resources
- Bibles and other sacred texts
- Websites
- Local places of Worship and artefact boxes
- Various books and CD's see Library and resource cupboard
- Visits and visitors
- School based special places

Right of withdrawal

The 1988 Education Act confirmed that parents have a legal right to withdraw their children from R.E. in all schools. Religious education forms an integral part of the ethos and curriculum in Church Aided schools and the importance of the subject should be emphasised to prospective parents. It is hoped that all children, regardless of religious affiliation will be able to benefit from our RE curriculum. The views of parents who wish to withdraw their children from this part of the curriculum will be respected in our school, however, parents should understand that the worship and religious education provided by the school is in accordance with the Church of England. This foundation is reflected in the curriculum and the whole life of the school community. Since the conduct of the school as a whole reflects the Church of England ethos, removal of pupils from worship and R.E. will not insulate them from the religious life of the school.

Inclusion

Egton CE (VA) Primary School upholds an equal opportunities policy. All children will be included in RE activities with special provision being made for children with special requirements e.g. disabilities requiring assistance for practical activities.

Appendix 1

The Aims of RE in the Church School

To develop an understanding of religious faith as the search for and expression of truth

To enable pupils to encounter Christianity as the religion that shapes British culture and heritage and influences the lives of millions of people today

To contribute to pupils' own spiritual/ philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own faith and belief

To enable pupils to learn about the other principal religions of Britain, their impact on culture and politics, art and history, and on the life of their adherents

based on the Statement of Entitlement for RE in Church Schools

Extracts from York Diocesan Syllabus/RE Today 2013

