



## Edenham C of E Primary School

### RE Questionnaire Feedback

Dear Friends and Families,

Huge thanks to those of you who took the time to complete the RE questionnaire last term.

48 responses were received from parents, 8 from governors and 7 from members of staff. This is a really great number of responses for a school our size and represented approx 65% of our families in school.

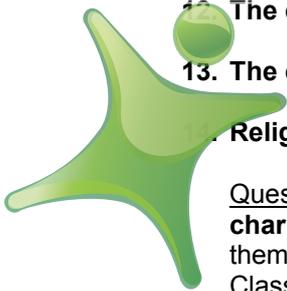
The purpose of this questionnaire was to hear your views, identify where we can make improvements, celebrate what is going well and contribute to our application for the RE Quality Mark for Teaching and Learning.

### The Questionnaire and Summary

The questions we asked followed by the percentage who **agreed** or **strongly agreed** with the statement

1. I understand Christian values to be honesty, respect, compassion, caring, co-operation and friendship through an understanding of Jesus through love and obedience. 99%
2. The School has a set of clear and explicit Christian values. 99%
3. All members of staff take an active part in encouraging Christian values. 96%
4. Collective Worship is important in the life of the school. 99%
5. There is a strong focus on Jesus Christ and the position he holds in the Christian faith in Collective Worship. 99%
6. The children are given opportunities for prayer and reflection in school. 94%
7. The children have the opportunity to lead Collective Worship and perform charitable acts. 77%
8. The children enjoy Collective Worship. 98%
9. The children have a good knowledge and understanding of Christianity. 97%
10. The children have a good knowledge and understanding of other world faiths. 75%
11. The children participate in a wide range of activities in Religious Education, both in and out of the classroom. 95%
12. The children make good progress in Religious education 93%
13. The children enjoy Religious Education 93%
14. Religious education has a high profile within the school. 92%

Question 7 - 'The children have the opportunity to lead Collective Worship and perform charitable acts'. Since Christmas the children have been leading Collective Worship on the theme 'People who inspire us'. Classes 2 and 3 led assemblies as a class and children in Class 4 led an assembly on the topic in pairs or groups. We are pleased that the school's charitable activities have nearly always been led by the children – either as School Council members or following a personal interest.



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Question 10 - '**The children have a good knowledge and understanding of other world faiths**'. We are legally required to teach RE for an hour per week. Throughout the whole year, the children spend one third of their RE lessons studying one of the other 4 major world faiths and two thirds of their time studying Christianity. We know it is likely that the children have a stronger understanding of Christianity as it is wholly embedded in the life and routines of the school as well as the time spent in RE lessons. We also believe strongly however, that an understanding of other faiths and beliefs is crucial. To this end, we ensure that the pupils receive high quality teaching in RE in aspects of Judaism and Hinduism in KS1, Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism and Buddhism in KS2. We also aim to include learning about other cultures, including matters of Faith, in other curriculum areas such as Geography and History. We are working hard to close any gaps and make this learning central to learning under the new National Curriculum. Teachers are attending training on the major World Faiths and staff meeting time is set aside for sharing knowledge and understanding in these areas.

Also relating to this, Mrs Brooks, Kris, a governor and our Bishop's visitor carried out a large number of pupil interviews about RE during the Autumn term. Questions ranged widely from 'What type of activities do you like best in RE lessons?' to exploring their understanding of the deeper issues of Faith. The pupils were frankly – outstanding!

Their responses were thoughtful and considered and reflected the wide range of their own beliefs and opinions. Even the younger pupils talked about their idea of God and human nature. Many talked about how they have learnt at school to share, be patient, what it means to be a good friends and neighbour and, what love means. We were also really delighted with the extent of the older pupils' knowledge and awareness of the role of Faith in the world around them and many commented thoughtfully on matters relating to stereotypes depicted in the news.

And, they love exploring artefacts, acting, creating Art, singing, listening to music, hearing stories, by the way!

## Definitions

**Collective Worship** is what most of you would recognize as being 'Assemblies' but is intended to be more spiritual in nature. It has a Christian character but plenty of themes from religious traditions, history, politics, science, inspiration or values are included.

**RE** (Religious Education) is the formal curriculum that your children are taught lessons – these lessons are about Religion, including knowledge, facts, exploring traditions and cultures.

## Your Comments

We have quoted many of your own comments in our Section 48 report ready for when we have our church school inspection. Your comments are valuable to us as they give us evidence and help us to improve.

Below are some of the comments we received:

"It was important to us that our daughter attend a Church of England school as we felt it would teach and complement our own beliefs and values. Our daughter talks about assemblies quite a lot and that element of Collective Worship is obviously



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important to her even at her young age. Having experienced that degree of Collective Worship myself at other Primary Schools I feel personally that it adds to a sense of community and belonging- something we definitely feel from Edenham C of E Primary School. It is good that parents are invited to take part in worship over at the church too.”

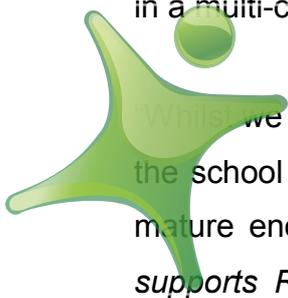
“The Christian ethic runs through the school and gives the children a strong grounding in what is right and wrong. This, coupled with active worship in and out of the classroom makes the school an excellent place to learn.”

“I do agree with Religious Education however I do feel that the focus can be overpowering within this school and other subjects do suffer.” *It is a legal requirement to teach RE for a lesson a week. We follow this legal requirement except in Class 4 when Father Andy teaches Christian Studies - Mr Shore may then in addition teach about other faiths for hour a week for one term. As mentioned above sometimes issues of Religion and Faith come into other subject areas and allow valuable learning in ethics, choices, values or even Human Rights.*

“My oldest child in particular, I feel, is very reflective and for her age, somewhat philosophical at times, being able to translate discussions in the classroom into a wider context which surprises me. This must come from quality teaching and an environment which feels safe to explore personal ideas.”

“I am not personally religious and am not familiar with the Christian faith. I was keen to send my children to a faith school so that they could be taught about Christianity and make their own life choices (and so not be influenced by me). I do think it very important though to teach tolerance and appreciation of all religions as we now live in a multi-cultural society.”

“While we recognise father Andy is focused on class 4, perhaps children lower down the school would gain much from his time /pastoral instruction as we feel many are mature enough and would benefit from his insight/ support.” *Luckily, Father Andy supports RE lessons further down the school too and he is a regular leader of Collective Worship. Father David was also a regular visitor and we invite leaders*



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*from other churches to visit us too. Father Andy also makes regular visits to Edenham preschool so many of the children know him well before they come to us.*

At the parents' meeting held recently, parents made several suggestions which we will act upon over the coming weeks. We will let you know how that goes.

Many thanks again for your continued support. If you do have any further comments or queries contact us in school.

Mrs K Brooks (RE subject leader) and Mrs Kris Radford-Rea (HT)

