



Religious Education Policy

Edenham C of E Primary School

Church schools serving their communities through excellence, exploration and encouragement within the love of God.

The diocese of Lincoln is called to faithful worship, confident discipleship and joyful service and our church schools bear witness to our belief that every child is made in the image of God and loved by Him. They were founded for the good of their local communities so that children can be educated through the values and stories of Christianity.

Policy Owner: Executive Head Teacher

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Introduction

Under the authority of the Executive Head Teacher, the Religious Education (RE) Policy has been written by the Governors in consultation with the RE subject leader and teaching staff. This policy should be read in conjunction with other policies in school including: SMSC, Collective Worship, PSHE, Teaching and Learning, Assessment, Marking and Feedback and other curriculum policies.

**The vision of the Lincolnshire Anglican Academy Trust
is that it's schools will serve their communities through
excellence, exploration and encouragement within the love of God**

The core values of Edenham Church of England Primary School are:

**Respect, Hope, Forgiveness,
Compassion, Perseverance, Courage**

The Context

Edenham Church of England (CofE) Primary School is a school in a rural environment for children in the age range 4 to 11 years old. School is part of all the lives of pupils, parents and staff; Church should be reflected in those lives and not be a completely separate entity.

The School utilises the RE curriculum plan issued in 2018 to comply with the Lincolnshire Locally Agreed Syllabus. This plan and this policy comply with the syllabus and expectations detailed in the Church of England "Statement of Entitlement for Religious Education" dated June 2016. As a Church of England Primary School, it is essential that RE occupies the core place in relation to Christian distinctiveness.

The Diocese of Lincoln acknowledges the opportunities that RE offers for pupils to encounter a range of religions and worldviews. The School recognises the variety of religious and non-religious backgrounds that make up the school community and respects this variety of backgrounds in the spirit of Christian welcome. The School actively seeks to prepare the pupils for life in modern Britain. Key British values are promoted, including respect for and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. Racism and all forms of prejudice are challenged. RE is one curriculum area in which pupils can encounter and critically reflect on a range of world views.

The Purpose of Religious Education at Edenham CofE Primary School

At the heart of RE in Edenham CofE Primary School is the teaching of Christianity, rooted in the life and person of Jesus Christ. There is a clear expectation that pupils will be encouraged to learn about other religions and world views, fostering respect for them.

The Aims of Religious Education at Edenham CofE Primary School

The aims of RE in Edenham CofE Primary School are:

- 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.

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- To enable pupils to know about and understand about other major world religions and world views, their impact on society, culture and the wider world, enabling pupils to express ideas and insights.
- To contribute to the development of pupils' own spiritual/philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own beliefs and values.

The expectations are that all pupils (within age appropriacy), at the end of their education at Edenham CofE Primary School, will be religiously literate and as a minimum will be able to:

- Give an informed and thoughtful account of Christianity.
- Show an informed and respectful attitude to religious and world views.
- Hold balanced and well-informed conversations about religion and beliefs.

To achieve the aims and expectations, Christianity should be the majority study in RE at Edenham School. As a Church school, this should be clearly adhered to, with at least two thirds of the study being Christianity. Sufficient dedicated curriculum time, meeting explicitly RE objectives, however organised, should be committed to the delivery of RE. This should aim to be close to 10% but must be no less than 5%.

The RE entitlement is totally separate from the requirements for Collective Worship.

RE at Edenham CofE Primary School will be provided within legal requirements. These are as follows:

- The Basic Curriculum must include provision for RE for all pupils registered on the school roll, including those in Reception class who are less than five years old.
- The content of RE must reflect that the religious traditions of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland are, in the main, Christian. It must also reflect the teaching and practices of the other principal religious traditions represented in the Kingdom.
- The RE curriculum provided will be in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus for Lincolnshire.

The objectives to achieve the aims are for the pupils to:

- Acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of a range of world faiths and worldviews.
- Develop an understanding of the ways in which religious and non-religious beliefs, teachings, practices, values and traditions influence individuals, communities, societies and cultures, from the local to the global contexts.
- Develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues, with reference to the beliefs, teachings, practices, sources of authority and ways of living associated with the principle religions represented in the UK.
- Develop positive attitudes of mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.
- Enhance their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development by:
 - Considering the 'big questions' raised by human experience and reflecting on how religious and other traditions respond to them.

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- Responding to such questions with reference to religious beliefs, teachings, practices, values and traditions, relating them to their own understanding and experience.
- Reflecting on their own beliefs, values and experiences in light of their study of religious and other traditions.

Curriculum Time

The School curriculum provides a minimum time of 36 hours per year for KS1 and 45 hours per year for KS2. This time is arranged as discrete hour-long lessons per week/in a range of ways, including discrete weekly/fortnightly lessons and RE days.

RE forms part of the planning at EYFS; although there is no expected time allocation at this level, it is expected that there will be connections made between RE and the Early Learning Goals.

Scheme of Work and Planning

The RE Scheme of Work is based on the Lincolnshire locally agreed syllabus. RE will be based around termly themes/cross-curricular units. At KS1 and 2, the principal religion studied will be Christianity; Islam and Hinduism will also be covered. It is not expected that pupils will study all six major world religions in depth during their time at Edenham CofE Primary School, although they will have learning opportunities that allow them to encounter all these faiths. It is expected that pupils will also encounter non-religious world views, such as Humanism, as part of their RE curriculum.

Curriculum planning for RE is covered in three phases (long, medium and short-term). The long-term plan maps the RE topics studied throughout the school; the medium-term plan gives details of each unit of study delivered to each Key Stage. In some classes, as there are mixed-age classes, medium-term planning is carried out on a two-year cycle. The class teacher writes the plans for each lesson. These are discussed on an informal basis with the RE Subject Leader and form part of the annual monitoring process for RE teaching and learning.

Teaching and Learning

OfSTED guidance encourages a range of teaching and learning styles in RE; the policy is to aim to ensure enquiry, art, drama, thinking skills, speaking and listening activities, multisensory activities, visits/visitors, ICT and other teaching strategies are used in order to enable each child to progress in RE according to their individual needs. Cross-curricular work is encouraged, in line with whole school policy on teaching and learning. RE is identified as one of the core subjects through which pupils can develop spiritually, morally, socially and culturally, but the delivery of SMSC is not limited to this subject alone. The pupils are taught to achieve the attainment targets of the Lincolnshire locally agreed syllabus for RE.

Resources

Edenham CofE Primary School has invested in a wide range of appropriate books, artefacts, DVD resources, posters, persona dolls, etc., these resources are audited annually. Advice is taken from the Diocesan RE Adviser and other RE professionals on the best resources to support the delivery of high-quality RE.

Visits and Visitors

An essential element of the delivery of good quality RE is encounter with world faiths. Pupils are encouraged to participate in visits to places of worship when the opportunity arises; these visits are arranged in line with the programme of study for RE and provide pupils with the chance to

encounter world religions as living faiths in modern Britain. Faith leaders and other members of faith communities are encouraged to visit Edenham CofE Primary School. These visits are arranged in accordance with the school's trips policy.

Supporting All Learners

Whole school policy with regards to SEND and differentiation applies to RE. Teachers ensure that the learning activities employed in RE are differentiated to meet a variety of learning needs. At Edenham CofE School RE is taught to all pupils, whatever their ability and individual needs. RE forms part of the commitment to provide a broad and balanced education to all children. Through RE teaching, learning opportunities are provided to enable pupils to make progress.

Inspection

Edenham CofE Primary School is an Academy with a Voluntary Controlled foundation. As such, RE is not inspected as a separate element of the Section 48 SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspection. It is the responsibility of the RE Subject Leader to review and maintain evidence for the RE elements of this inspection, with appropriate support from the Executive Head Teacher, Governors and Diocesan RE Adviser.

Monitoring and Review

It is intended that this policy should operate until completion of the next academic year and then be fully reviewed by staff and Governors. The Executive Head and support Governors will monitor the delivery of RE during each academic year to ensure that this policy is being appropriately implemented. Their role is to support and hold accountable all members of staff involved in the delivery of RE. To this end, they will ask each member of staff involved in the delivery of RE to provide a copy of their medium-term planning for RE, along with a folder of evidence of pupil progress in RE during each academic year.

Future RE Subject Leaders will evaluate their own leadership of the subject during each academic year. Using a self-evaluation tool, such as the school evaluation form for the RE Quality Mark, the RE Subject Leader must work with their line manager to ensure that leadership of RE remains a high priority and is of a high quality as previously carried out, when in 2015, the school received RE Quality Mark Silver Award.

Withdrawal from RE

It is acknowledged that parents/guardians have the right to withdraw their children from RE lessons and of teachers to withdraw from teaching the subject. Parents/guardians/teachers do not need to provide a reason why they wish to withdraw from the subject. Should a parent/guardian wish to withdraw their child from RE lessons or a teacher wish to refuse to teach RE, it is required that written notice be sent to the Executive Head Teacher.

Should a parent/guardian request that their child be withdrawn from RE, endeavours will be made to communicate clearly the place of RE within a broad and balanced curriculum to ensure that they are in possession of all the necessary information before confirming their decision. However, there will be no attempt to persuade them to alter their decision. If a pupil is withdrawn from RE lessons, the school is required to provide supervision, *but should not incur any additional cost in so doing and is not obliged to provide alternative work.*

Any queries regarding withdrawal from RE should be directed to the Executive Head Teacher in the first instance.