

CUDHAM CHURCH of ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL



AQUINAS Church of England Education Trust “Life - Transforming – Learning”

Policy Title:	R.E
Responsibility:	Headteacher
Review Body:	Trust Improvement Partner
Date:	February 2020
Review:	February 2022

We recognise that our pupils bring with them a wide variety of behaviours influenced by life experiences outside school. We aim to respond to each case professionally, objectively and compassionately. We are sensitive when working with children and families with specific needs and experiences and we continuously seek ways to promote successful partnerships. The basis of differentiation will vary dependant on the needs of each case but we will take into account the views of parents and families, colleagues and external agencies together with any Statement of Special Educational Need or Education, Health and Care Plan. We will also ensure compliance with the trust’s Equality Policy taking into account pupils with protected characteristics and making reasonable adjustments for pupils with a disability within the meaning of the Equality Act 2010. Both the school and trust respects the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) that requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities. By following the trust’s Equality Policy, the school seeks to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by such legislation.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Trust’s Equality Policy:

https://www.aquinastrust.org/images/policies-documents/Equality_Policy_and_Single_Equality_Statement.pdf

Together we aim believe and achieve

At Cudham CE Primary School we want the very best for the children in our care so that they flourish in our Christian community and realise their potential. We strive to provide an enriching environment where each child will be happy, thrive and succeed.

Introduction

At Cudham Church of England School, pupils and their families can expect a high quality religious education (RE) curriculum that is rich and varied, enabling learners to acquire a thorough knowledge and understanding of a range of faiths and worldviews. As a church school, the teaching of Christianity is at the heart of our RE curriculum. Through the Understanding Christianity resource, the use of an enquiry approach engages with significant theological concepts and the pupil’s own understanding of the world as part of their wider religious literacy. Using The Bromley Locally Agreed Syllabus with Rochester Diocesan syllabus, Understanding Christianity we learn about other religions and worldviews, fostering respect for them. Links with our Christian virtues and vision, and support for pupil’s spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development are intrinsic to our RE curriculum and have a significant impact on learners. We provide a wide range of opportunities for learners to understand and to make links between the beliefs, practices and value systems of the range of faiths and worldviews studied.



Aims of Religious Education

As set out by the National Society Council and The Church of England, Religious Education is an academic subject, which gives children and young people an understanding of how beliefs and virtues affect their lives. In our school, Religious Education asks about meaning and purpose in life. It gives space for individual reflection and wondering who and why. It explores Christianity, as a living religion at the heart of our community, as well as giving children a clear understanding of the beliefs, practices and traditions of other principal religions and world views; looking deeply at how they affect the fabric of personal and social life. We believe that nurturing children's development of their own personal faith, whichever religion they follow, is an important part of Religious Education.

Thus Religious Education, at Cudham Church of England Primary School, aims to enable pupils: -

- To gain a secure knowledge and understanding of Christian beliefs and practices as expressed in the Anglican Church and other Christian traditions.
- To learn about the major world religions showing respect for people of different faiths. To mature in their own beliefs, virtues and behaviour, by reflecting on religious beliefs and practices in a philosophical way.
- To develop a religious literacy that understands the impact of a variety of beliefs, including Christianity on both British Culture and other cultures around the world.

Agreed Syllabus

As a Church of England school, the Trust is responsible for providing R.E. for pupils. The school follows the Rochester Diocesan Education Syllabus for Primary Schools. 5% of curriculum time is spent on R.E. This amounts to 1 hour at Key Stage 1 and 1 hour 15 minutes at Key Stage 2.

Collective Worship time is not included in the allocation for R.E.

As a Christian school, 2/3 of the Religious Education curriculum is dedicated to the study of Christianity. However, there is no encouragement for children to become committed Christians.

Dedicated Religious Education lessons start in Reception where R.E. is also linked closely to the Foundation Stage Curriculum, particularly through the early learning goals for Personal, Social and Emotional Development and Understanding of the World.

Teaching and Learning

RE has a high profile within our school curriculum and is comparable with other core curriculum areas. Quality teaching in RE helps generate respect for different views and interpretations where real dialogue takes place. Learners develop and use a wide range of higher level skills such as enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and reflection to deepen their understanding of the impact of religion and world views as lived by believers. Key cross-



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curricular skills such as reading, writing, observation, and discussion are practised. Rigorous assessment based on knowledge and understanding of core religious concepts shows that attainment is high and progress significant in developing an understanding of Christianity and a range of other world religions and on other world views as appropriate.

RE offers a wide variety of teaching and learning experiences, understanding that pupils learn best in different ways. Pupils will experience opportunities to learn and express themselves through an enquiry based style of learning by:

- Listening to the teacher and each other.
- Reading of texts.
- Seeking information for themselves in libraries and on computers.
- Discussion with the teacher and other pupils.
- Pair and group work.
- Using a range of media such as artefacts, pictures, photographs, music and drama.
- Visits and visitors.
- Artwork.
- Outdoor learning.
- Time for reflection.

Assessment, Marking and Feedback.

Throughout the curriculum there are many opportunities for children to develop Religious Education Skills that contribute to their Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural understanding. These include: -

- Thinking theologically and exploring ultimate questions
- Recognising that faith is a particular way of understanding and responding to God and the world
- Respecting those of all faiths in their search for God
- Reflecting critically on areas of shared belief and practice between different faiths
- Enriching and expanding their understanding of truth
- Developing the skills to analyse and interpret religious texts including the Bible
- Reflecting critically and expressing their views on the human quest and destiny
- Analysing and explaining the varied nature and traditions of the Christian community, reflecting on the truth claims of Christian belief so that they can make a well-informed response to Christianity.

The development of these skills form the outcomes for Religious Education within our school. To assess children's development of these skills, selected pieces of work are marked thoroughly and thought provoking questions are asked to move the children's learning on.

Children are also assessed across the year, in both Attainment Target 1 and Attainment Target 2.

Samples of work are collected and level descriptors are used to assess the children's attainment. These levels are used to move on children's learning and identify gaps in their understanding.

The Religious Education Leader is responsible for the monitoring of attainment in RE across the school and ensuring that children are making progress.



Inclusion and Withdrawal

As a Christian school, Religious Education is a core subject. All children take part in RE lessons and are only withdrawn if their parents have requested it. At Cudham Church of England Primary School the diversity of our school community is something we are very proud of. In RE lessons we always make sure that children from other faith groups are included and made to feel comfortable expressing their own beliefs, thoughts and opinions. These are invaluable in the development of children's understanding of other faiths and they help us to nurture strong relationships within our school community, which are built on respect for faith, belief and each other.

Parents retain the right to withdraw children from RE lessons although they should realise that Christian virtues permeate the whole life of the school. Parents are strongly encouraged to meet with the Head teacher and the RE Subject Leader beforehand to discuss any request for withdrawal.

DATA PROTECTION

Cudham Church of England Primary School [The Academy] processes personal data, some of which will be sensitive personal data, in accordance with the data protection principles embodied in the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. Cudham Church of England Primary School complies with the requirements of the data protection legislation as detailed in the Trust Data Protection Policy.

All staff are aware of the principles of data protection and will not process personal data unless necessary. Cudham Church of England Primary School safeguards the personal data it collects through the operation of the Trust's data protection policy and



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processes and the IT policy. In addition, Cudham Church of England Primary School has taken steps to ensure that all its contracts that process data have the GDPR compliant provisions.

