

EPPING UPLAND C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

R.E. POLICY

Our Vision

We are an inclusive church school where children are at the heart of everything that we do. Governors and staff are dedicated to providing high-quality teaching and learning for every child. We believe that if children are to achieve to the best of their ability they need to be learning in a safe, secure, caring and happy environment so that every child feels valued and encouraged to challenge themselves and take risks in their learning.

Our Values

As a church school, our Core Christian Values of Trust, Perseverance, Compassion and Responsibility are at the heart of our ethos and these are central to informing everything that we do.

Religious Education is unique in the school curriculum in that it is neither a core subject nor a foundation subject but the 1988 Education Act states that 'Religious Education has equal standing in relation to core subjects of the National Curriculum in that it is compulsory for all registered pupils'.

Religious Education is taught in our school because it makes:

"a major contribution to the education of children and young people. At its best, it is intellectually challenging and personally enriching. It helps young people develop beliefs and values, and promotes the virtues of respect and empathy, which are important in our diverse society. It fosters civilised debate and reasoned argument, and helps pupils to understand the place of religion and belief in the modern world". (RE: realising the potential, Ofsted 2013).

Epping Upland Primary School is a Community school. We deliver RE in line with the Essex Agreed Syllabus, (from September 2015 ExplRE) and incorporate units from Chelmsford Diocese.

At Epping Upland C of E Primary School we intend to

- Provoke challenging questions about the meaning and purpose of life, beliefs, the self, and issues of right and wrong, commitment and belonging. It develops pupils' knowledge and understanding of Christianity, other principal religions, and religious traditions that examine these questions, fostering personal reflection and spiritual development.
- Encourage pupils to explore their own beliefs (religious or non-religious), in the light of what they learn, as they examine issues of religious belief and faith and how these impact on personal, institutional and social ethics; and to express their responses.

- Enable pupils to build their sense of identity and belonging, which helps them flourish within their communities and as citizens in a diverse society.
- Teach pupils to develop respect for others, including people with different faiths and beliefs, and help to challenge prejudice.
- Prompt pupils to consider their responsibilities to themselves and to others, and to explore how they might contribute to their communities and to wider society. It encourages empathy, generosity and compassion.
- Develop a sense of awe, wonder and mystery.
- Nurture children's own spiritual development.

The legal position.

Epping Upland School is required to teach RE in line with the Essex Agreed Syllabus. This agreed syllabus reflects 'that religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, while taking into account the teachings and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain. The syllabus also indicates at what stage each religion should be taught, ensuring that as a whole at each key stage, the relative content devoted to Christianity predominates', and that the syllabus is not designed to convert pupils.

All pupils must be taught RE apart from those who are withdrawn by their parents.

Teachers have the right not to teach RE.

How is RE organised in this school?

RE is taught by class teachers following the Essex Agreed Syllabus for RE – (from September 2015 – ExploRE) and the units from the Chelmsford Diocese, using a variety of resources.

The curriculum is structured so that there is a thematic approach in Year 5 and Year 6. This allows children to really engage with the curriculum and develop thinking behind the curriculum.

All children are entitled to take a full and meaningful part in RE lessons, including those with special educational needs. Teachers will take account of the needs of each child when planning, teaching and assessing RE.

Parents must receive a written annual report containing 'brief particulars' of their children in RE. At Epping Upland C of E school this is contained within the annual written report to parents about their child.

Children have the opportunity to express their own thoughts and beliefs and empathise with believers of a religion or belief position.

This policy was revised in May 2017.