

CHELLINGTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND FEDERATION



Happiness Through Wisdom

“Gold there is, and rubies in abundance, but lips that speak knowledge are a rare jewel.”

Proverbs 20:15

St. Lawrence VA Primary School /
Christopher Reeves VA Primary School

Religious Education Policy

May 2023

Review Date: Summer Term 2025

Responsibility Learning and Outcomes

Introduction and Purpose

Our federation is a Church of England federation and both schools are part of the St Albans Diocese. We have a strong Christian ethos and maintain a close connection with the Diocese. "The core purpose of any Church school is to maximise the learning potential of every pupil within the love of God. "Live God's Love in Education, Enabling Life in all its Fullness'. The Schools' Christian foundation is therefore central to our work and is reflected in our vision 'Happiness Through Wisdom', inspired by Proverbs 20:15

'Gold there is, and rubies in abundance, but lips that speak knowledge are a rare jewel.'

The Church of England has a positive role in our schools, providing both a community service and a specifically Christian form of education. We value our close links with St. Lawrence Church in Wymington and St Mary's Church in Podington.

We welcome families of all faiths and none, recognising and celebrating the heritage that all families bring to our school.

Our Schools are committed to providing education of the highest quality within a happy, secure and Christian environment.' We seek God's love and support to fulfil our vision and values.

The school has adopted the RE syllabus produced by Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire and Luton alongside the scheme 'Understanding Christianity'. Following Diocesan guidelines, the proportion of the curriculum time to be allocated to RE should be approximately 5%. Within that, the balance of time allocated to Christianity should be 80% and to other faiths 20%. If appropriate, the non-Christian faiths should be drawn on when studying the syllabus units to develop and deepen understanding. This will also help to keep the balance of time spent on non-Christian faiths while following all the units of the Diocesan syllabus.

Elements of the RE syllabus may be re-inforced through Collective Worship within the school. Particular attention will be made to celebrate festivals from all the religions studied within Collective Worship and as stand-alone study days.

Links with St. Lawrence Church and St Mary's Church are to be fostered where appropriate, and there are opportunities to develop relationships with holy places of other faiths in the wider community.

Statement of aims

The Chellington Federation believe in teaching R.E. so children are able to discover more about themselves, others and God. We encourage children's values and spiritual development to be explored and experienced throughout the whole school.

"Pupils can expect that a Church school RE curriculum will engage and challenge them through an exploration of core concepts and questions. They can expect Church schools to provide meaningful and informed dialogue with a range of religions and worldviews. There should be opportunities for them to understand the role of foundational texts, beliefs, rituals, and practices and how they help form identity in a range of religions and worldviews. Pupils should explore how these may change in different times, places and cultures. RE will go beyond a sociological study of religious phenomena and will introduce pupils to a range of relevant disciplines including theology, philosophy and the human and social sciences."

RE Statement of Entitlement: The Church of England Education Office 2019.

In this Federation, RE should:

- Nurture pupils' own personal faith/commitment within a clear ethos of respect for those children of the faiths.
- Contribute to pupils' personal development including spiritual, moral social and cultural development, with reference to the school PSHE policy and curriculum.
- Give pupils a sound knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith.
- Give pupils the opportunity to explore the nature of religious language and symbolism.
- Value pupils' own faith and introduce them to other world faiths
- Experience Christian faith and places of worship.

Content and approach

Elements of the RE curriculum will be based on the objectives within the Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire and Luton syllabus along with Understanding Christianity, the Emmanuel Project and the teaching activities and resources recommended. The yearly themes to be taught will follow the agreed syllabus and the units covered within each term will follow the curriculum overview given by the subject leader.

All teachers should clearly follow the hours stated for each unit to enable the unit to be covered properly.

A suggested number of hours per week would be 1 hour 20 minutes for each class.

Progression and Monitoring

RE will be monitored by the subject leader on a termly cycle and with reference to the Federation Development Plan. Monitoring will be shared with the Subject Link Governor twice a year with a focus on sharing what is working well and what the next steps are for the subject.

Special Education Needs provision

Teachers will plan activities according to the needs and abilities within the class, differentiation for the more able and the less able appropriately. The needs of children on the SEN register will be accounted for and appropriate to their IEPs and ASPs, with reference to the SEN policy.

Assessment

Teachers will assess RE with reference to the assessment and the marking policies. Parents will be informed on their child's progress at regular parent evenings and a written report given at the end of the year as part of the child's annual written report.

Resources

Appropriate resources will be ordered and collated by the Subject Leader. Others resources may be sourced from online.

Review of the Policy

This policy is the responsibility of: The Learning and Outcomes Committee.

This policy has been reviewed and agreed by the Governing Body on 3rd May 2023 and will be renewed in the summer term, 2025.

If you require a hard copy of this policy, please contact the school office.