

# Calverton Primary School



## Religious Education Policy

Person responsible for the policy	RE Leader
Date reviewed and shared with staff	Spring 2019
Date to be next reviewed by staff	Spring 2022
Date ratified by the Governing Board	Spring 2019
Date to be reviewed by the Governing Board	Spring 2022

Signed by Chair of Governors:	Signed by Head Teacher:
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## **Introduction**

Calverton Primary School is made up of staff and pupils who originate from many nationalities, cultures and faith groups. As a school we aim to celebrate this diversity and offer a welcoming and inclusive environment for all our pupils. We believe that Religious Education provides an opportunity to celebrate and foster awareness of these differences within our school and promote tolerance and respect for others and the wider world. It is a subject that celebrates diversity and challenges stereotypes.

RE is taught in accordance with the aims of the current Newham Agreed Syllabus, *Exploring Beliefs, Celebrating Diversity*. We recognise that RE is an academic discipline, which does not seek to urge religious or non-religious beliefs on children, or to compromise the integrity of their own beliefs by promoting one religion over another.

## **Equal opportunities**

All pupils in the school, regardless of ethnicity, religion, gender or special needs, are ensured an entitlement to a broad, rich and balanced curriculum.

Our aim is to develop pupil's self-esteem, perseverance, cooperation and confidence. To place their skills, knowledge and understanding in the context of lifelong learning and to develop a greater understanding of the way in which this contributes to society and to their own community.

For more specific guidance, please see the equal opportunities policy.

## **Aims**

The aims of RE are outlined in the Newham Agreed Syllabus. At Calverton, we believe the following aims to be of particular importance.

- Develop a sense of self, of community and of the world beyond.
- Gain the knowledge and understanding of different religious beliefs, ways of life, symbols, social rules and customs.
- Realise questions about the different Gods and religion can be interpreted in different ways.
- Are able to develop their own values, beliefs and attitudes through reflection of their own and others' experiences.
- Show sensitivity, tolerance and respect for their own and other's feelings and actions.

While RE and Collective Worship are distinct and separate parts of school life, religious events and celebrations will often be discussed during Collective Worship. Collective Worship assemblies will also welcome guests from different backgrounds, religions and cultures to share their experiences of religion and their place in the community. Please see the Collective Worship policy for further guidance.

## **Entitlement**

In meeting the needs of all pupils in RE, teachers should refer to Calverton primary school policies relating to: Special Educational Needs and, Teaching and Learning.

At Calverton, we aim for RE to be accessible to all children, whether they have a religion or not. However, parents have the right to withdraw their child(ren) from RE. It is always hoped that here at Calverton we can find a way to keep all children involved in their religious education. Should a parent/carer wish to do so, they must firstly request a meeting with the Head teacher to discuss the concerns in order to come to an agreement. The head teacher must add the notification of any withdrawals to the agenda of the next governing board meeting.

## **Provision**

The RE curriculum is planned using the Newham Agreed syllabus.

### Foundation Stage:

In the Foundation Stage, RE is not taught as a distinct curriculum area. However, many of the EYFS development strands such as; Understanding the World and Personal, Social and Emotional Development lend themselves to the teaching of RE. Specific ways of linking early learning are shown in the support units that can also be found on the MLE.

In KS1 and KS2, RE is taught in discrete weekly sessions, up to a total of:

36 hours per year - KS1

45 hours per year - KS2

In line with the Newham Agreed Syllabus, the breadth of study includes, but is not limited to:

KS1: Christianity, Islam, Sikhism

KS2: Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism and Judaism.

Each year groups' content of study is themed by an overriding question:

Year 1 - What does it mean to belong?

Year 2 - Can stories change people?

Year 3 - How are symbols important in religion?

Year 4 - What is special to me and the people in my community?

Year 5 - How do beliefs influence actions?

Year 6 - How important are the similarities and differences between religions?

Planning, monitoring and delivery:

Teachers will adapt the Newham Agreed syllabus to meet the specific needs of their own class. Planning will be monitored each half term; with learning walks, book monitoring and discussion with the children carried out termly.

Different activities such as stories, discussions, drama, games, art, music and role-play will be used to develop the awareness of children's feelings and opinions. Each year we organise educational visits to a variety of places of worship so that over their time at primary school, they will have had the opportunity to visit the main religious buildings. We also arrange visits from the different faith leaders and visitors from our local and school community.

## **Assessment**

RE progress will be tracked each half term using next steps, by both teacher and the pupils themselves. These assessments will be in the form of "I can...." statements, and written in child friendly language. For more information, please see the Assessment policy.

## **Resources:**

Resources can be found in the RE cupboard. There are copies of the Newham Agreed Syllabus in the staff room and on staff drive. There is also a RE folder on the staff drive which is regularly updated with a range of resources.

## Attainment Targets

In RE there are two attainment targets:

- AT1: learning about religion
- AT2: learning from experience and religion

Learning intentions and children's next steps are set using a combination of these attainment targets. Children are assessed based on their work produced, responses, discussions and transfer of knowledge into other curriculum areas.

**Children will never be assessed based on their own beliefs or practices.**

## Role of the RE Leader

The RE Leader is responsible for monitoring the teaching of RE across the school, and evaluating its effectiveness. The Leader is responsible for reporting to governors, and ensuring link governors are invited to any events linked to RE in the school. The RE Leader is part of the RE Matters network and will attend regular training and network meetings. They will then update colleagues about changes and developments in RE.

## Annual Reporting of RE

In order for the LA and SACRE to monitor the quality of RE provision in non-faith schools, Newham has set up a programme of review and monitoring so that all primary and secondary schools evaluate each year how they are complying with the Local Authority's Agreed Syllabus. This process will be carried out by the RE Lead who will provide copies for the RE link governors. The report must be signed off by the Chair of Governors. The report will be an agenda item for one of the governing board meetings during the summer term.

## Partnerships

When visiting Places of Worship, and inviting guests to school to talk about their beliefs, it should always be made clear to them that RE is educational in nature and not for conversion. Guests from across all religious groups should be invited in to school.