



St. Edmund's Catholic Primary School
'Together we learn and grow through worship and celebration'

Other Faiths Policy

Committee responsible for policy	Curriculum and Achievement
Co-ordinator	Fearghal Nash
Statutory/Non-statutory	Non STATUTORY
Frequency of Review	Free to determine – every 3 years or earlier if required
Date of last review Approved by Staff/ SLT/Committee/FGB	June 2024
Date of next review	June 2027
Purpose of policy	To help children understand and respect others of different faiths
Consultation	Staff
Links to other policies	All other subject policies Curriculum, Marking, Planning

MISSION STATEMENT

Our Catholic School exists to provide an Education that is God centred. It is based on the belief that everything of worth comes from God and builds on the faith already established by the family through Baptism. *'Together we learn and grow through worship and celebration'*.

We encourage our children to develop their academic potential and individual talents and everyone in the school to show qualities of honesty, tolerance, forgiveness, caring and patience. All are made welcome and the worth of each is recognised, valued and celebrated.

Introduction

The raison d'être of our Other Faith policy lies in the work of the Bishops Conference of England and Wales 1997.

'Catholic Schools and other Faiths' suggest that schools need to:
'Find ways in which pupils can learn to engage in dialogue and to develop an attitude of respect for religious diversity. This will necessitate the inclusion of a broader study of both Christianity and other world faiths in the Religious Education syllabus.'

The Catholic vision of Education promotes the dignity and freedom of every person as created in the image and likeness of God. This vision inspires and encourages the beliefs and values that are lived out in the daily life of the Catholic school. Within this vision, Religious Education is very much a journey of formation involving every member of the school community, together with a pupil's family and parish community.

'Within our schools we are seeking to educate all pupils of whatever religion to be able to live a way of life that integrates their belief with all other aspects of what it means to be human. As part of this, they must learn to live alongside others who are different and hold alternative views, including religious views.

(Bishops Conference of England and Wales).

It is important to distinguish between a multicultural approach to education and the teaching of other faiths. The multicultural approach is threaded through the entire curriculum including R.E. and is demonstrated in the choice of music, art and literature etc. This reflects the multicultural diversity found in our Catholic school and in society. The teaching of other faiths, which will include culture where appropriate, is about the religious beliefs of another faith.

Teaching of Other Faiths at St Edmund's

In the autumn term and in either the spring or summer term (whichever is longer) one week is given to the exploration of another faith.

Other faiths are taught in special designated lessons. This means that they are treated with integrity and not by comparisons or by isolated festivals. The teaching will be of the key concepts of Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism and Sikhism. It will start from the religion's own understanding of itself and an understanding of what it is to be a member of another faith community today.

At Key Stage 1 pupils consider some aspect of faith life which is significant for peoples from other faiths. E.g. some aspect of their family life, how they pray.

At Key Stage 2 pupils consider that other faiths play an important part in the lives of individuals, families and communities, the importance of showing sensitivity, respect and appreciation for feelings of people who hold religious beliefs different from our own. They begin to become familiar with the stories celebrated at festivals and acquired knowledge and appropriate vocabulary for worship, beliefs and festivals.

We do not and cannot pray as people of other faiths but we pray for the well-being of all people. We thank God for the variety and richness in the world.

The outcomes of Religious Education is Religiously literate young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills - appropriate to their age and capacity - to think spiritually, ethically and theologically, and who are aware of the demands of Religious commitment in everyday life.

[From the Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools]

Year Group Coverage

Reception – Judaism and Faith Festivals

Year 1 – Judaism and Hinduism

Year 2 – Judaism and Islam

Year 3 – Judaism and Sikhism

Year 4 – Judaism and Buddhism

Year 5 – Judaism and Hinduism

Year 6 – Judaism and Islam

Monitoring:

The level of teaching and learning of other faiths will be monitored through

- Book looks
- Monitoring of plans
- Lesson observations
- Pupil and parent voice
- Diocesan advisor visits
- Pupils and staff questionnaires

Role of R.E. Lead in the Teaching of Other Faiths

The RE Lead is responsible for:

- Monitoring the standards of the children's work and the quality of the teaching regarding other faiths
- Supporting colleagues in the teaching of other faiths
- Being informed about current developments in the subject
- Ensuring parents are kept fully informed about e.g. Fortnightly newsletter, termly RE newsletter
- Providing a strategic lead and direction for the subject in the school;
- Updating the other faiths policy
- Encouraging the use of appropriate practice
- Consulting with staff at all levels and ensuring that information is communicated to them
- Leading staff in INSET
- Maintaining and updating resources
- Promoting the use of outside resources and opportunities
- Presenting the Head teacher with an annual RE update, which evaluates the strengths and weaknesses in the subject and indicates areas for further improvement.

Review

The Curriculum Committee of the governing body monitors the Other Faiths policy every third year unless relevant changes occur. This committee reports its findings and recommendations to the full governing body.

