



RE Policy

September 2023

DATE FOR REVIEW: September 2024

Signed: *aCBenbow*

Ratified by Chair of Governors Date: 04/09/2023

Brampton Ellis Primary School – Religious Education Policy

Christian Vision Statement

We aim to:

- create and live within a Christ inspired culture of respect and responsibility
- follow Christ's command to love, inspiring and exercising compassion
- inspire the hope and horizons of our children.
- express a passion for the word, and for enlivening reading

Relationships

At Brampton Ellis we strongly follow the principal of 'Love your neighbour as yourself' (Matthew 22:35-40) and as such we value the relationships we build and the impact that these have on our children.

Jesus encourages us to 'love one another'[1] and the Christian faith presents the image of humanity as a family, in which we are children of God.[2] We see ourselves as this family and we strive to make strong relationships within, and to build genuine partnerships without. Our work is inspired by our understanding of ourselves as a big community – like an extended, local family. This involves the nurturing of the families that work with our school. Relationship is also at the heart of our learning. To engage and grow our learners we value the place of dialogical discussion, involving high quality questioning and collaboration.

Responsibility and respect

At Brampton Ellis, we have mutual respect for, and take responsibility for, one another. Springing from Christ's inspiration in Matthew 22:35-40, we begin by ensuring children know how valued they are, and that they are able to value themselves. A grounded self-awareness is the starting point for our children in this regard, and is evident in how they take responsibility for their own learning journey. We translate that value into respect for, and responsibility towards, others. We follow the command of 1 Peter 2:17 and "Show proper respect to everyone", noting that the word translated 'respect' here (Gk: timēsate) is rooted in the way we value or consider one another – and is basically about how we see each other and treat each other with compassion. "Be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate." (Luke 6:36 nb. Translation) At Brampton Ellis such compassion has to look beyond the confines of the school and community and also look towards global concerns.

Word

At Brampton Ellis, we believe that reading is freedom. Our passion is for the word. We share in the Church of England's Vision for Education that the power of the word involves 'seeking truth and wisdom in relation to all reality – areas of knowledge and know-how, religions, cultures, the sciences, the arts and crafts, economics, law, politics, and more.'(p9) It is the ability to read coupled with a desire for knowledge and wisdom that gives us this freedom.

At our school we have total commitment to the view that every child has the right to be able to be read.

Learning lives

John spoke about the word being the word of life, who came and lived among us. (John1:1-14) Jesus respected the learning of his time, but he also sought to breathe new life into them and fulfil them.(Matthew 5:17) At Brampton Ellis we want learning to be alive, so we seek to provide meaningful and exciting learning for every child.

We seek a learning that is lively and experiential and that accounts for the whole child. It is also vital that children are can take on this learning and become independent.

In this regard we echo the Church of England's Guidance on Character Education, when it states: "The focus on the whole child and the development of their spiritual, moral, intellectual and academic character remains at the heart of why the Church of England is involved in education at all. (P5)This, for us, forms the basis of an education that is child centred.

To this end, our teaching and learning are personal encounters. We positively encourage staff developing their own knowledge and passions and making these the source of inspirational, relevant and creative teaching.

Possibilities

Teachers affect eternity: teachers can never tell where their influence ends (Henry Adams) and we are mindful of the possibilities our work presents. At Brampton Ellis we celebrate the fact that learning goes beyond teacher instruction, and regard one of the roles of those teaching as that of facilitators of investigation, exploration and experience.

As we consider our children and what they have the potential to be we are always looking and pointing beyond the locality to a wider world of possibilities. Our role is one of lifting the hopes of our children, extending opportunities and experiences, broadening their cultural capital and extending world knowledge.

We seek to ensure staff enthusiasm opens the possibilities of life to our children and hope and aspiration are ever set before us and our school, recognising the need to broaden children's horizons.

The Church of England states: "Good schools open up horizons of hope and aspiration, and guide pupils into ways of fulfilling them."(Vision for Education p7)

Our Curriculum

Intent

At Brampton Ellis Primary School we believe that children should be given opportunity to develop their spiritual, moral and cultural beliefs. We aim to engage and inspire children, enabling them to grow their knowledge, skills and ability to answer challenging questions. Christianity is at the heart of our religious education curriculum and is celebrated beyond the classroom. Collective Worship is a key part of school life where global issues and current events are studied alongside key Christian figures and festivals.

Implementation

Learning is embedded through the development of knowledge and skills over time. The schemes of work utilised at Brampton Ellis show a clear progression of skills and teachers use a range of assessment techniques to ensure that all children build and develop their knowledge of religion. Understanding Christianity, a scheme designed

and adopted by Sheffield Diocese, is used to teach key Christian principles and encourages reflection and enquiry from Early Years to Y6. Children are also taught to reflect on other religions such as Hinduism, Judaism, and Islam following the Rotherham SACRE scheme of work.

Impact

Our RE curriculum shows clear progression of skills as children move through school. Children can discuss religion competently and show their consideration towards the beliefs of others. They will also enjoy taking part in active and engaging lessons and at least good progress will be made by all pupils.

Curriculum

At Brampton the Ellis Primary, we plan our religious education curriculum in accordance with the Understanding Christianity Scheme of work. The R.E. Co-ordinators draw up a medium-term plan for each term and then class teachers use the detailed planning outlined in the agreed syllabus in order to prepare for their lessons. The scheme of work is set out carefully to ensure that topics studied in religious education build on prior learning. Children of all abilities are given opportunities to develop their skills and knowledge in each unit and the progression planned into the scheme offers the children an increasing challenge as they move on up through the school.

Teaching and learning style

Teaching and learning in RE is based on the key principle that the children can learn about religious traditions, while simultaneously reflecting on what religious ideas and concepts mean to them. We encourage children to think about their own views and values in relation to the themes and topics studied in the RE curriculum; this is achieved by setting tasks which are open-ended and can have a variety of responses. The Agreed Syllabus stipulates that learning outcomes are differentiated, which in turn ensures that learners make individual progress and make meaningful connections between religious principles and their own lives and experiences.

Assessment

Assessment of RE is tracked on our assessment system (O-Track) which allows leaders and the PSED team to analyse children's levels. To inform their assessments teachers use summative assessments as well as observations during the lesson to make judgements on children's learning.

R.E. Co-ordinator

School leaders task the R.E. Co-ordinators with training, evaluating and monitoring staff in their teaching of RE. To this end, the R.E. Co-ordinators are responsible for: composing medium-term plans for each term, using the Agreed Syllabus as their guide; drawing up plans and timetables for collective worship each term; offering advice and support to staff in delivery of R.E. lessons and collective worship; attending local diocese training on the teaching of R.E; monitoring the standards of the children's work and the quality of the teaching in religious education throughout the school.

Please see our Policy for Collective Worship.