

Emmanuel Junior Academy

Religious Education Policy

2021-2023



Approved by: Local Governing Body

Date: April 2021

Last reviewed on: April 2021

Next review due by: April 2023

‘Be Respectful, Be Courageous, Be Safe’

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1. Introduction and Aims

- ✿ The management and organisation of RE in school is the responsibility of the Executive Head and Head of School, supported by the RE Lead.
- ✿ It is the intention of the Executive Head and Head of School, that our strong, Christian ethos, will drive, shape and inspire everything we do.
- ✿ Emmanuel Junior Academy (EJA) is a unique place, which nurtures everyone that steps through its door, be they pupils, staff or visitors that stay for just a little while.
- ✿ Within our school community, everyone is encouraged to develop a love of learning, and a zest for life. Our pupils are taught that to be our best, we need to aspire for others and ourselves. We teach them to investigate, understand and support the communities that they live in as well as the wider world.
- ✿ We encourage everyone within EJA's walls to question – spiritually, morally and intellectually and to form opinions, whilst being respectful of the views of others.
- ✿ Furthermore, our teaching of RE aims to develop a sense of awe and wonder in the world around us and in our pupils' potential.

2. Our Christian Ethos

- ✿ Religious Education at EJA, as an Anglican/Methodist church school within a Christian MAT (DSAT) provides children with the opportunities to investigate and reflect on the teachings of Jesus as expounded in the Christian Gospels and elsewhere in the Bible and to study other religions alongside Christianity, making links and comparisons across religions.
- ✿ Our Christian ethos promotes the love, of not only God, but also of ourselves, our communities and the world we live in.
- ✿ Everyone in school is encouraged to try their best and persevere when things get hard, be respectful of those around us and to trust in others and ourselves.

3. Vision

"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."

HEBREWS 13:16

At Emmanuel we know that we have our children for just four short years. During this time, we have high expectations of ourselves and of them. We aim to develop children that are:

- *Compassionate and caring to all of God's creatures.*
- *Resilient individuals who persevere through their difficulties.*
- *Are comfortable both asking for support or help where it is needed and in helping others.*
- *Care about the communities both local to them and in the wider world.*
- *Have enquiring minds and aspire to a lifetime of self-improvement.*
- *Are confident forming and presenting their own opinions whilst being respectful of the opinions of others.*
- *Are curious about the world around them and accept that differences are good.*
- *Challenge negative and immoral or ethical views – Emmanuel children are brave.*

When our children leave us after this short time, we often shed a tear, but we watch them go with pride, knowing that we have equipped them well for their future lives.

14. Equal Opportunities and Inclusion

- It is vital that children are able to talk about their beliefs in a supportive and respectful atmosphere and without fear of embarrassment or ridicule. Pupils are taught about respect for and empathy towards others. Religious education has a lead role in promoting social cohesion and tolerance within school and the surrounding community. Every child is entitled to be taught RE regardless of age, culture, gender, background, special need or disability. RE develops a balanced view of the multi-cultural society, which we live in without compromising the faith, non-faith or cultural background of any pupil.
- Parents / guardians have the right to withdraw their child from RE if they so wish. Where parents wish to exercise this right, we encourage them to meet first with the Executive Head or Head of School to discuss their concerns.

15. Curriculum

- RE is explicitly taught for one hour per week. This teaching and learning is underpinned by other activities across the school timetable including seasonal religious celebrations, whole school and class worship, lunchtime prayers, debate, community activities and charitable events.
- The curriculum is delivered in accordance with the Sheffield Agreed Syllabus, using Understanding Christianity and Discovery RE.
- The school's long-term and medium term plans ensure pitch, tone and coverage is appropriate for each year group. Coverage has a spiral approach in order to aid retention and deepen understanding of facts and ideas.
- Three religions are studied: Christianity, Judaism and Islam. There is a strong focus on depth of study and developing our pupils' ability to make links within and across religions as well as within their own lives and their communities.
- Our pupils are encouraged and supported to ask big questions and think about what is right, moral and spiritual within the world. The curriculum develops their courage to form personal views and opinions, whilst respecting the views and opinions of others. Emphasis is placed on supporting pupils to aspire for themselves and for their communities.
- The curriculum is inclusive and appropriate for all pupils. By encouraging enquiring minds and high expectations, it allows everyone to flourish in their spiritual development and learning, not just in RE but also across all subject areas.
- The curriculum design of all subjects considers our Christian ethos to ensure our Christian values are thoroughly embedded.
- Moral mazing is encouraged in all subjects to develop our pupils understanding of themselves, the views of others and their impact on the world.

16. Planning

- The RE Lead is responsible for producing the RE long term plan. Once the plan is produced, the RE Lead agrees the plan with Senior Leadership and distributes it to teaching staff.
- Teaching staff are responsible for completing the RE element of the medium term plan.

- The short term planning approach is decided by each year group (for example, using S planning or flip charts) but must include planning for the use of key and consistent vocabulary.

17. Assessment

Teacher assessment is carried out at the end of each unit of work. A standardised approach to assessment is being developed and will be introduced in Autumn 2 2021/2022.

18. Monitoring

- The monitoring of RE teaching and learning across school and the promotion of EJA's distinct Christian ethos is the responsibility of the Executive Head and Head of School, supported by the RE Lead.
- Three formal monitoring reviews are carried out across the school year; the details of which are outlined in the monitoring plan by the RE Lead and agreed by the Executive Head and Head of School. Over the course of the school year, these will include as a minimum:
 - A Deep Dive
 - A Learning Walk
 - A Book Review

Reviews will consider:

- To what extent our Christian ethos is considered and promoted.
- The teaching and learning of RE, particularly the depth of study and the ability of pupils to make links across religions and subjects and within their own lives.
- The level of aspiration and drive of our pupils.
- The links with, use of and support of our wider school communities.
- The use of debate across school.
- The effectiveness of collective worship and the involvement of pupils in the content and delivery of worship.

During the school year, the RE Lead will also undertake several pupil voice activities to ensure that the views of our pupils are sought, listened to and responded to on a regular basis.

19. Displays and Working Walls

As the long-term plan ensures topics are covered at appropriate times within the Christian calendar, and, where appropriate across all year groups, the reception area display will reflect where we are in the Christian calendar. The RE Lead is responsible for this and other whole school RE displays.

Each classroom must also have an RE display. It is the responsibility of each class teacher to maintain this display.

It should contain:

- An element of a working wall – such as pupils' thoughts and ideas and notes from the lesson.
- Key topic vocabulary.
- A display of children's work for the current or previous unit.

Our school prayer must also be displayed in each classroom but does not have to be included on the RE display.

20. Training

- Planned RE training is included in the whole school training plan and is arranged by the RE Lead (supervised by the Executive Head and Head of School).
- Where any monitoring activity identifies an additional training need, the training plan is revised and additional training is arranged.
- The RE Lead is responsible for ensuring new staff are trained in the school's chosen schemes of work and are supported in their understanding of RE at Emmanuel Junior Academy.

21. Collective Worship

- Collective worship takes place in school on four days of the week. This is usually in the form of a whole school assembly. Occasionally, collective worship is carried out in class.
- We are supported in our collective worship by Emmanuel Church members and by our Reverend.
- From summer 2, 2021 our pupils are to play an active role in the design, content and delivery of collective worship.

22. Community Links

- We work closely with our communities to provide greater opportunities for our pupils to understand respect and support the people around them.
- We have close links with Emmanuel Church and are supported by the Diocese of Sheffield, our Reverend and community workers. We have links with Pye Bank School to ensure our children have access to and are informed about communities, particularly the Islamic community that they generally have less personal knowledge of.
- Our parents are strong supporters of the work we do and are welcomed into school on a regular basis and are active participants in our collective worship and celebrations.

23. Review and Approval

The RE policy is approved by the Board of Governors and reviewed on an annual basis by senior leaders and the RE lead.