

EASTHAMPSTEAD PARK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Policy on Religious Studies and Collective Worship



The arrangements made for Religious Studies and Collective Worship at Easthampstead Park School are intended to fully implement the provisions of DfEE Circular 1/94, which clarified all previous laws and regulations.

Religious Studies

Religious Studies celebrates cultural diversity, recognises a shared humanity, nurtures the development of value systems and explores individual spirituality.

Our scheme of work for Religious Studies takes account of the SACRE agreed local syllabus and also incorporates the more recently published RE themes developed by NATRE, to reflect the local agreed syllabus and further enhance pupils' learning of Religious Studies.

Religious Studies will have equal standing in relation to National Curriculum Subjects within the curriculum. Teaching will be based on QCA units and on approved student examination specifications. These will reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are, in the main Christian, whilst taking into account the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain.

All students will study Religious Studies but the right, in law, of a parent to withdraw their child from Religious Studies will be respected. This can be done by sending a letter to the Headteacher. Alternative arrangements will then be made in consultation with parents.

Religious Studies Philosophy in the School

Religious Studies is wherever Religion and Education meet. We are concerned with developing a religious knowledge and interpretation of the world around us. We help students search for answers to basic questions about human existence, helping them to make sense of God, themselves and their community.

Religious Studies has an important role in helping students explore the multi-faith culture in which we live and in the Christian tradition in particular. Similarly it has a responsibility to provide a 'community of learning' where respect for all people and cultures is encouraged and their sense of tolerance, understanding and open-mindedness is developed.

Religious Studies will attempt to give the students the ability to judge truth and values thus equipping them, through criticism and rational judgement, with a capacity to make moral decisions.

Religious Studies will encourage students to explore, analyse and reflect on their own experiences and promote a commitment towards a life-long journey of moral development and spiritual growth. Religious Studies must help students understand faith but cannot make students believe. It is concerned with helping students to appreciate the religious dimension of life and the way this is expressed in religious tradition.

Collective Worship

Collective Worship aims to provide students the opportunity to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response; and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values and reinforce positive attitudes.

Collective Worship will, over a period of time, be of a broadly Christian character, but it is intended that students who do not come from Christian families should be able to join in the daily act of collective worship.

The school will organise a weekly programme of assemblies for whole year groups. Local clergy will be invited to conduct some of them, and the school acknowledges with gratitude their support.

All students will participate in the collective worship, but the right of parents to withdraw their child will be respected.

SACRE - Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education

NATRE - National Association of Teachers of Religious Education

DCSF Circular 1/94, paragraphs 17 – 23 – Guidance on the responsibility of the Governing Body

DCSF Circular 1/94, paragraphs 44 – 49 – Guidance regarding the right to withdraw their child from Religious Studies

Reviewed and Revised: June 2017

Responsibility for Implementation and Review: Deputy Headteacher

Date of Next Review: Summer 2019