



# Religious Education Policy

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***Loving Learning,  
Striving for Success,  
Achieving Everyday***

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## **Our School Context**

Colegrave is a multi-cultural school which serves the needs of the local community. There is also provision at the school for children with severe learning and physical difficulties. Colegrave strives to maintain good relationships with the parents and the members of the local community and has truly dedicated and passionate staff who work hard to ensure our pupils succeed.

## **R.E as a Subject**

At Colegrave, we place great importance on the understanding, respect and celebration of the different identities of our school and local community. We recognise that the personal development of all pupils, spiritually, morally, socially and culturally, plays a significant part in their ability to learn and achieve. We value a diverse range of faiths and cultures and we aim to help our pupils understand themselves and others – underpinning British values of; democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

Therefore, Colegrave views Religious Education (RE) as an important and necessary aspect of our pupils' education. This forms the foundation of the Colegrave community and we are proud to demonstrate the inclusivity of Newham schools.

The development in the teaching of R.E will contribute to all areas of the curriculum and promote British values. As a result, our pupils will hold high standards of personal behaviour, a positive attitude towards others, an understanding of their social and cultural traditions and an appreciation of the diversity of other cultures.

## **The Aims of R.E at Colegrave**

At Colegrave we do not promote one religion over another. As a Christian society and school in a multi faith area we aim to:

- Neither promote nor undermine any particular religions' spiritual or secular stance;
- Be accessible to pupils and teachers of any religious stance or none;
- Encourage pupils to be confident and able to safely express their views and opinions;
- Encourage pupils to have confidence in their own growing sense of identity as well as valuing and respecting diversity in others;
- Help pupils in their search for meaning and purpose in life.

## **Legal Requirements**

The teaching of Religious Education has been compulsory for state schools since 1944. The Education Reform Act (1988) introduced the National Curriculum and confirmed R.E as a compulsory element of the basic curriculum for children. Legislation requires that RE is part of the school curriculum for all registered pupils and must be taught to the agreed syllabus with the exception of pupils in nursery.

## **Assemblies**

By law the school must have a daily act of collective worship, where pupils can make their own silent prayer or reflect on a particular theme. Collective worship takes place during each assembly. When no assembly is timetabled, pupils are given the opportunity for collective worship at the end of each EPIC session (Everyone Positive in Colegrave – PHSE/Rights Respecting themed sessions).

As well as being linked to the 42 articles of Unicef’s Rights Respecting Schools, our assemblies focus on different aspects of British values, as set out by the government in the 2011 Prevent Strategy. These include:

- Responsibility
- Honesty
- Fairness
- People’s feelings and rights
- Positive attitude
- Aspirations
- Respect
- Understanding others

Our assemblies also make reference to the beliefs and traditions of other faiths.

## **Our Curriculum**

At Colegrave, we follow the Newham Agreed RE Syllabus, which has been constructed to follow the government advice on time allocation for religious education contained within the DfE ‘Religious Education in English schools; non-statutory guidance 2010’.

The Newham agreed syllabus has the following aim:

- To promote the spiritual, moral, social, emotional, cultural and intellectual development of pupils and of society by encouraging an exploration of and response to those aspects of religion and human experience which raise fundamental questions of belief and value.

Through this syllabus, pupils will learn about practices and beliefs from: Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism and Sikhism. They will reflect on the similarities and differences between them and will also have the opportunity to compare this to their own opinions and beliefs.

RE will also be celebrated through special assemblies, guest speakers and visits to places of worship.

*\*Parents have a statutory right to withdraw their child from R.E. and from assemblies. Parents wishing to exercise this right must write to the Head Teacher.*

**Timing for RE:**

KS1: 36 hours a year

KS2: 45 hours a year