St Cyprian's Greek Orthodox Primary Academy

ΠΑΝΤΑ ΙΣΧΥΩ ΕΝ ΤΩ ΕΝΔΥΝΑΜΟΥΝΤΙ ΜΕ ΧΡΙΣΤΩ ΙΝΑ ΑΡΙΣΤΕΥΩ

I AM STRONG THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

TO THE BEST THAT I CAN BE

Religious Education Policy

Revised: April 2026

Reviewed and ratified by Full Academy Trust:

Date: 7.5.26

Signed: A. Christou.

Name: ARETI CHRISTOU.

Position: VICE CHAIR G.B

Date of next review: July 2027

Academy Mission Statement

The aim of St. Cyprian's Greek Orthodox Primary Academy is to provide its children with primary education of the highest quality in a supportive learning environment through the National Curriculum in the core subjects, enriched by the progressive teaching of the Greek Language and Christian Orthodox Religion. The children will be equipped with the knowledge skills and spirituality to enable them to achieve their full potential and prepare them for successful transition o secondary education and to contribute positively to the challenges of a diverse multicultural society.

Our Academy, as a place of learning, belongs to the parish communities of St Constantine & St Helen (Croydon), St Nectarios (Battersea), St Mary's (Camberwell) St George's (Kingston), and Christ the Saviour (Welling) and exists to educate the children of the community with the Gospel values, traditions and beliefs of the Greek Orthodox Church. The Academy also connects with all Greek Orthodox Churches in the UK.

Rationale of Religious Education:

- We believe Religious Education to be 'the core of the core curriculum.'
- We believe Religious Education is central to the educative mission of the Church.
- We understand Religious Education to be the systematic study of the teaching of the Church and the mystery of Christ.

'At the heart of the Greek Orthodox religion lies the Christian vision of the human person. This vision is expressed and explored in religious education. Therefore religious education is never simply one subject among many, but the foundation of the entire educational process. The beliefs and values studied in Greek Orthodox religious education inspire and draw together every aspect of the life of a Greek Orthodox Academy..... All pupils have the right to receive an overall education which will enable them, in the light of the faith of the Church, to engage with the deepest questions of life and find reasons for the hope which is within them. Religious Education is, then, the core subject in a Greek Orthodox Academy.'

'Religious Education...is a rigorous academic discipline, and as such it is to be taught, developed and resourced with the same commitment as any other subject.'
(Curriculum Directory. p10)

'The outcome 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, who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.' (Curriculum Directory p10)

The Aims of Religious Education

- to promote knowledge and understanding of Greek Orthodox faith and life
- to promote knowledge and understanding of the response of faith to the ultimate questions about human life, its origin and purpose
- to promote the skills required to engage in examination of and reflection upon religious belief and practice
- develop respectful and reflective attitudes towards prayer, worship and liturgy
- to recognise the important contribution that everybody in the Academy makes
- develop the children's understanding of and participation in Greek Orthodox celebrations

- develop the children's involvement in the preparation of Greek Orthodox celebrations as they progress through the Academy
- maintain strong links with the parishes of St Constantine & St Helen, St Nectarios, St Mary's, St George's and Christ the Saviour
- to ensure the children have the opportunity to participate in a daily act of worship
- to facilitate children to move from an inherited faith to a personal faith
- to ensure that religious education is integrated into all aspects of Academy life

The objectives of Religious Education

- all children will have access to daily worship
- all children will be involved in whole Academy, Key Stage and year group liturgical celebrations
- parents and members of the parish will be invited to liturgical celebrations
- member of the clergy will be welcomed to participate in all aspects of Academy life
- enable the children to be confident in the use of religious vocabulary
- integration of religious education into Academy life will be facilitated through a diversification of teaching materials and methods

Curriculum time allocation:

In line with the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Great Britain recommendations, 10% of curriculum time is allocated to Religious Education. This does not include Collective Worship.

Teaching and Learning
Teaching and learning of religious education is central to all aspects of Academy life and learning. The pupils will have opportunities to expand their knowledge, understanding and skills through direct teaching, collaboration and discussion. In addition to the whole Academy approach the children will study specific aspects of the Greek Orthodox religion through the Greek Orthodox scheme 'Pistevo', as well as celebrate key religious dates and traditions.

Methodology/Planning

A variety of teaching and learning strategies will be used from across the curriculum adapted appropriately to the needs and learning styles of pupils.
The scheme 'Pistevo' is used to develop long term planning.

Assessment, Monitoring, Recording and Reporting

- Assessment of standards is carried out by the Head teacher and Deputy Head teacher using 'I can' statements.
- Each teacher keeps a class record of assessed work and records of pupils' progress.
- An in - house moderation meeting is held every term as well as collecting samples of learning which can be found in the Academy's RE Monitoring file.
- Monitoring of teaching and learning takes place every half term through lesson observations, work book scrutiny etc

- Progress and achievement in Religious Education is reported to parents/carers in a written report at the end of each academic year.

Management of the subject.

The Headteacher, Deputy Head teacher and RE Lead has responsibility for leading, managing and supporting the delivery of and training in Religious Education.

Other Faiths

Other faiths and world views are taught from Early Years to Year 6:. Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism and Islam.

The Role of Academy Trust Members

- to liaise with the co-ordinator
- to monitor the policy and provision for Religious Education
- for a nominated governor to access appropriate training

The Trustees shall ensure that the Academy maintains sufficient senior leadership capacity to sustain, promote and develop its religious character, ethos and mission in accordance with its designation as Greek Orthodox Primary Academy.

The Role of Parents

Our Academy recognises parents as the first educators of their children and sees the involvement of the Academy as being an on going partnership with parents. Parents have access to the RE policy. They are made to feel that they have an important part to play in teaching their children about the beliefs and traditions of the Greek Orthodox faith as well as helping their children to develop a personal faith.

SEN

Children with special educational needs those that require extra support to achieve national targets and those with exceptional ability , will be identified through assessment and tracking.
SEN support plans, the use of appropriate resources and Learning Support Assistants will support children who are not achieving set targets.
Appropriate resources will be available to support the more able.

Policy Review.

This policy will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed by the RE Lead, staff and Academy Trust every 2 years.

APPENDIX 1

The Religious Education Lead will be responsible for:

- Working with Greek Orthodox Archiocese and priests designated to the Academy, in order to organize structure, content and teaching of the Greek Orthodox religion
- Working with senior leaders on monitoring teaching and learning, planning and standards through lesson observations and work scrutinies according to Academy practice.
- Organising and maintaining the Academy portfolio of pupils' work.
- Organising in-house moderation of standards meetings.
- Self evaluation to identify strengths and areas for development.
- Ensuring the curriculum offered is appropriate, suitable and relevant to pupils' needs and interests.
- Attending appropriate training and keeping up to date with current thinking, policy and developments and feeding back to staff.
- Organising and leading in-house staff training and development.
- Identifying training needs of staff to ensure their suitability to teach effective Religious Education.
- Supporting and advising colleagues in the delivery of Religious Education.
- Liaising with the Head teacher, Governors, parents, the Education Service on matters relating to Religious Education.
- Auditing, managing and developing resources within a given budget.