

Eltham Hill School



Eltham Hill
SCHOOL

FAITH POLICY

Governors Committee: Teaching & Innovation

Date Adopted/Reviewed: September 2014

Date of next review: September 2017

For more information please call 0208 859 2843 or email
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Guidelines on Faith and Religious Observance at Eltham Hill

Eltham Hill commits to accommodating where possible the cultural and the religious beliefs of our staff, students and parents/carers.

Employment of staff and the enrolment of students

There is no discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief, or lack of it, in the employment of staff or the enrolment of students.

School ethos

In line with our Equal Opportunities Policy, all staff, students and parents/carers are entitled to equal respect and value. We consider that the school's diversity is one of its greatest strengths.

Pastoral care

All staff will respond to the dimension of religious diversity as appropriate to their care responsibilities. The school works hard to raise awareness of the diverse beliefs and requirements of individuals and groups to ensure staff are sensitive to any issues which may arise.

The Curriculum

All students are entitled to a broad-based and inclusive curriculum. The school is required to follow the National Curriculum. Where an aspect of the curriculum is perceived to conflict with a religious belief, or lack of it, staff will discuss the matter with parents/carers in order (wherever possible and appropriate) to reach a compromise. Cases will vary depending on the particular circumstances and will therefore be considered on a case by case basis by the Key Stage Leader. Parents/carers may withdraw their children from sex education and religious education. We welcome parents/carers to contact the school if there are any queries or concerns. All requests to withdraw students from this education should be put in writing to the Key Stage leader.

Assemblies and the 'Collective Worship' requirement

Eltham Hill assemblies are non-religious serving to reinforce the basic values of the school and wider community. These values encompass values and beliefs upheld by many faiths. This is in response to the wide range of beliefs amongst our staff, students and parents/carers.

Our assemblies celebrate a range of local, national and international events and we encourage all our students to reflect on the issues raised. At Eltham Hill we believe students should listen to a range of views and experiences in order to understand Britain's diverse society and develop a meaningful sense of community.

Expression of faith or belief

Students are encouraged to express their own religious beliefs and values provided that these do not contravene the Eltham Hill Agreement which insists on respect and value for all.

Religious observance and school attendance

The school recognises and supports the right of pupils and staff to request leave of absence for religious duties. Parents/carers and staff must inform the school of any genuine needs in regard to religious observance as far in advance as possible.

School uniform and staff dress code

The rules regarding dress code for staff and uniform for students acknowledge the wide range of religious and cultural backgrounds within the school community.

Diet

The School Council will work in partnership with the Director of Operations and Executive Chef, to monitor and inform both the choice and preparation of food available on site. The school tries to respond to the needs of all members of its community.

Behaviour

Discriminatory behaviour on the grounds of religion or belief against any student, parent or member of staff is not accepted.