

Woodside Church of England Primary School
"Inquisitive minds, caring hands, praying hearts."



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

Introduction

As a Church of England School, our Christian ethos is at the heart of every aspect of school life at Woodside Primary.

The Heartwood Christian ethos statement is:

'We welcome children of all faiths, backgrounds and beliefs into our inclusive community. We seek inspiration from the life and teaching of Jesus Christ to help our children achieve their full potential. We uphold the distinctive Christian ethos and values of the Heartwood academy when making all decisions and implementing policy and practice. We aim to provide a caring and stimulating environment which promotes a love of learning whilst seeking to inspire every pupil to become a well-motivated, independent and resourceful learner';

and this underpins all of our work with the children.

There are close links with the local churches (St Nicholas at Baddesley Ensor and All Saints at Grendon). The Christian education provided for the pupils, together with these church links, contributes to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our pupils and their understanding of British Values.

Regular Worship and the core Christian values of love, respect, hope, forgiveness, challenging injustice and Worship underpins all our work and enables the children to thrive.

Aims (Based on Warwickshire Agreed Syllabus for RE aims 2002)

To enable pupils to:-

- Develop an awareness of the spiritual and moral dimensions of life experiences.
- Identifying questions and issues which they raise and then responding to them in a variety of ways.
- Value and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other principle religions observed in Great Britain.
- Reflect on their own experiences, beliefs and values and develop personal responses to questions and issues that arise.
- Develop an understanding of commitment to a religious tradition.
- Have confident viewpoints, whilst engaging in open and honest enquiry, respecting others' beliefs which may be different in a religiously diverse society.

Organisation, General:

- Religious Education is taught in accordance with the law as set out in the Education Reform Act 1988 and at Woodside R.E. is taught in line with the locally agreed syllabus for Warwickshire supported by other Christian resources eg 'Festival Matters'
- There is a designated member of staff to co-ordinate R.E. and to develop the subject in

the school. Regard is given to in-service training in R.E to encourage, develop, and improve outcomes for children

- R.E. is compulsory for all registered pupils in full-time education, although parents or guardians have the right to withdraw their children from R.E. if they wish. Parents wishing to do so are asked to inform the Headteacher, in writing. In such an event, the school remains responsible for the supervision of these pupils.

Organisation, Subject Content:

Planning, teaching and the delivery of RE, in line with the Warwickshire Syllabus:

- ensures that the key processes: learning about religion (AT1) and learning from religion (AT2) are addressed and linked
- The school identifies appropriate key concepts to inspire pupils to explore throughout the key stages

Key Stage One:

- A time allocation of approximately 1 hour a week is allocated to RE although teachers are given the freedom and flexibility to 'block' this time to enable more meaningful teaching where appropriate. The Christian year of Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Ascension form a structure for the years' work along with the observance of the principal festivals as they occur.
- content is included from the Christian, Muslim and Sikh traditions for more in-depth study
- children encounter the three remaining traditions (Hinduism, Buddhism and Judaism) on at least one occasion.

Key Stage Two:

- a time allocation of approximately 1 hour a week is allocated to RE although teachers are given the freedom and flexibility to 'block' this time to enable more meaningful teaching where appropriate. The Christian year of Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Ascension form a structure of the years' work along with the observance of the principal festivals as they occur.
- teachers select content from the Christian, Hindu, Sikh, Muslim and Jewish traditions for more in- depth study

At Woodside Primary School teachers, in following the above subject content and guidance, organise the delivery of this as appropriate for the needs of each individual class and child.

Making effective links across the curriculum within and alongside the 'Cornerstones' curriculum is important in developing the social, moral, spiritual and cultural development of the children.

Special Educational Needs and R.E.

All pupils are given opportunities to participate and have their achievement and experience in R.E. recognised and celebrated.

We ensure that there is differentiation in the planning and teaching of R.E. so that it meets the needs of all pupils.

Equal Opportunities and R.E.

The diversity of religious beliefs, including none, in society and amongst pupils should be recognised.

Similarities encountered in different traditions are emphasised, but without compromising the integrity and distinctiveness of each.

Visits to places of worship and visitors to school, including those of other faiths, are encouraged and planned into the curriculum where possible.

Pupils are encouraged to regard people of all faiths, races and cultures with respect and tolerance in accordance with Christian values.

Resources

There are:-

- Resources and visual aids housed in the KS1 corridor
- Each classroom has a prayer area which includes a cross, the Lord's Prayer and the School Prayer and a number of focus objects.

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This policy for R.E. has been written by the Headteacher and R.E. co-ordinator with staff and governor consultation. It takes into account the statutory requirements of the Education Act 1988 and the L.A. agreed syllabus. It will be reviewed on a bi-annual basis.

(See RE MTP attached)

Agreed November 2016