

Woodlands Primary School

Religious Education Policy



Written by	Tracie Brown
Date for Review	November 2019
Signed – Headteacher	

This policy has been impact assessed by Mary Chatley in order to ensure that it does not have an adverse effect on race, gender or disability equality.

Legal Requirements

Curriculum 2014 states all state schools must teach Religious Education (RE) to all pupils at every key stage.

Religious Education at Woodlands Primary School is provided in line with and meets statutory requirements, which are that:

- the curriculum for every maintained school shall comprise a basic curriculum which includes provision for religious education for all pupils registered at the school
- the religious education programme must reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, whilst taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religious traditions represented in Great Britain
- the religious education provided shall be in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus for Kent.

Aims of Religious Education

Within the framework of statutory requirements and those of the locally agreed syllabus, our aims in RE are:

- to enable each pupil to explore our shared human experience and the questions of meaning and purpose which arise from our experiences.
- to develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of religion through exploration of the beliefs and practices of the principal world faiths represented in Kent and Great Britain.
- to affirm each pupil in her/his own family tradition, religious or non-faith, and through that to promote awareness, respect and sensitivity for the traditions of other people
- to provide opportunities for the cultivation of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- to support pupils in reflecting and thinking about fundamental human beliefs and values so that they develop a personal framework by which they can live.
- to enable pupils to develop an awareness and respect of the multi-faith community they are part of

School Context

Woodlands Primary School serves children between the ages of 4-11 within North Tonbridge in the west of Kent. We have a wide ability base currently with 10% special educational needs.

We work to the Kent Agreed Syllabus for RE and recognise the variety of religious and non-religious families from which our pupils come. We welcome and celebrate this diversity, are sensitive to the home background of each child and work to ensure that all pupils feel and are included in our RE programme. We are pleased to have the support of members of all local faith communities; we enjoy good relationships with them and encourage them to make positive contributions to the school and RE when appropriate.

We recognise the importance of pupils' all-round personal development and the leading role that RE plays in contributing to the spiritual, moral social and cultural elements in particular. We affirm the equality of importance of the twin aims of RE as expressed in the agreed syllabus and teach to these in a balanced way, ensuring that the 'affective' dimension of RE is addressed.

School specific information

- At Woodlands Primary School the subject leader is responsible for leading, managing and monitoring all aspects of the subject to secure high standards of attainment and achievement in RE.
- The subject leader is also responsible for supporting all colleagues who teach RE, for example, through provision of advice and guidance on teaching and learning strategies. She/he also has oversight of their continuing professional development, particularly with

regard to the acquisition of the necessary subject knowledge and understanding to teach the subject effectively.

- A detailed scheme of work, based on the agreed syllabus and supplemented by the QCA National Framework and guidance for RE (2012), is available for teachers and for scrutiny by interested parties.
- Provision in RE is through termly themes (both thematic and specific) in which pupils learn about Christianity throughout the key stages and also have the opportunity to study other world faiths in depth; Hinduism, Islam and Judaism. Children also have an opportunity to study Sikhism in year 6 as part of RE days which is continued into year 7 in West Kent secondary schools. In Key Stage 2 this is done with 6 RE days, one per term. This is to be developed into Key Stage 1 by September 2017.
- Our policy and practice is to use a breadth and variety of teaching and learning styles in RE to engage pupils positively and actively with the subject content. Thus we aim to increase the use of, for example, art, drama, ICT, speaking and listening activities, audio-visual materials, posters, photographs, display work and visitors/visits to/from faith communities. RE is expected to comply with the whole school policy on teaching and learning and to contribute to cross-curricular work in an appropriate way.
- The agreed syllabus provides descriptions of levels of attainment which are used to assess pupils' standards and monitor their progress. We report on pupils' progress and attainment in RE to parents at the end of each year and key stage as required by law and reporting is based on these level descriptors. We undertake to make individual and accurate comments on each pupil's progress in RE to parents, based on regular monitoring of work using the level descriptors within the Agreed Syllabus. Information of this nature will transfer with pupils to their new school(s) when they leave.
- Resources are generally kept in the PPA room and are organised by religion. We have a wide variety of artefacts relating to all religions taught including sacred texts. There are sets of books relating to faith and practice in Christianity, Judaism, Islam and Sikhism (kept in PPA room) and 'big' books (kept in library). The school has also developed a wide range of visual stimulus, mainly in PowerPoint format, and has a good stock of DVDs.
- The school has close ties with the local Methodist church, which the children visit in both Key Stage 1 and 2 as part of their learning. The Reverend Sharon also visits the school, both as part of lessons and to contribute to assemblies.
- Year 3 visit Tunbridge Wells Mosque, Year 4 visit Canterbury Cathedral as part of a cross curricular trip and Year 5 visit both the Gurdwara at Gravesend and a local synagogue.
- High Hopes, a Christian organisation, take approximately 6 assemblies per year, in both Key Stage 1 and 2, based on Christian teachings.

We intend that this policy will operate for the next three years when it will be subject to a full review led by the subject leader and involving the headteacher, teaching staff and governors, to ensure that the policy is embedded in practice. The subject leader has the responsibility of monitoring and evaluating the subject.

Withdrawal

We acknowledge the rights of parents to withdraw their child(ren) from RE and those of teachers to withdraw from teaching the subject. We aim to provide an open and inclusive curriculum which can be taught to all pupils, by all teachers. We do have a procedure in place to deal with any questions or concerns from parents about RE or withdrawals which, should in the first instance, be raised with the subject leader, then referred to the headteacher.

Equality statement

The governors and staff are committed to providing the full range of opportunities for all pupils, regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity, social, cultural or religious background. All pupils have access to the curriculum, and the right to a learning environment, which dispels ignorance, prejudice or stereotyping.