

WOULDHAM ALL SAINTS CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

Religious education enables every child to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10). It educates for dignity and respect encouraging all to live well together
Our approach is offered through a commitment to generous hospitality, being true to our underpinning faith, but with a deep respect for the integrity of other religious traditions (and worldviews) and for the religious freedom of each person.
(Religious Education Statement of Entitlement February 2019)

Introduction

At Wouldham All Saints Church of England School, pupils and their families can expect a high quality religious education (RE) curriculum that is rich and varied, enabling learners to acquire a thorough knowledge and understanding of a range of faiths and world views. The Governing Body is responsible for ensuring that Religious Education is provided for all pupils not withdrawn by parents. Religious Education is not part of the National Curriculum but the curriculum for every maintained school must include provision for religious education. As a church school, the teaching of Christianity is at the heart of our RE curriculum. Through the Understanding Christianity resource, the use of an enquiry approach engages with significant theological concepts and the pupil's own understanding of the world as part of their wider religious literacy. Using the Rochester Diocesan syllabus we learn about other religions and world views, fostering respect for them. Links with our Christian values and vision, and support for pupil's spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development are intrinsic to our RE curriculum and have a significant impact on learners. We provide a wide range of opportunities for learners to understand and to make links between the beliefs, practices and value systems of the range of faiths and world views studied.

Aims and objectives

As stated in the Church of England Statement of Entitlement for Religious Education, our school aims for all our pupils:

- ✚ To know about and understand Christianity as a diverse global living faith through the exploration of core beliefs using an approach that critically engages with biblical text.
- ✚ To gain knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews appreciating diversity, continuity and change within the religions and worldviews being studied.
- ✚ To engage with challenging questions of meaning and purpose raised by human existence and experience.
- ✚ To recognise the concept of religion and its continuing influence on Britain's cultural heritage and in the lives of individuals and societies in different times, cultures and places.
- ✚ To explore their own religious, spiritual and philosophical ways of living, believing and thinking.

Curriculum for Religious Education

RE is an academic subject that has a high profile in our school curriculum. It is a priority for senior leaders, who ensure that the teaching, learning and resourcing of RE is comparable with other curriculum subjects.

This means that our RE curriculum:

- ✚ Is aligned with the Kent Agreed Syllabus for RE and follows the Rochester Diocesan Board of Education plan.
- ✚ is intrinsic to the outworking of our distinctive Christian vision in enabling all pupils to flourish. In addition, it contributes to British values and to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- ✚ is delivered in an objective, critical and pluralistic manner to engage and challenge all pupils through an exploration of core concepts and questions. Lessons provide meaningful and informed dialogue with a range of religions and worldviews.
- ✚ reflects a good balance between the disciplines of theology, philosophy and human science, to enable pupils to develop their religious literacy
- ✚ enables pupils to acquire a rich, deep knowledge and understanding of Christian belief and practice, including the ways in which it is unique and diverse, whilst engaging with biblical texts and theological ideas.
- ✚ provides opportunities for pupils to understand the role of foundational texts, beliefs, rituals, and practices and how they help to form identity in a range of religions and worldviews.
- ✚ supports the development of other curriculum areas and other general educational abilities such as literacy, empathy and the ability to express thoughts, feelings and personal beliefs.
- ✚ encompasses the full range of abilities to ensure that all flourish academically, using a wide range of teaching and learning strategies which consider the task, outcome, resource, support and pupil grouping as appropriate to pupils' needs
- ✚ offers tasks that are age appropriate, challenging and sufficiently demanding to stimulate and engage all pupils, whilst extending the most able and providing support for those who need it.
- ✚ ensures that all pupils' contributions are valued in RE as they draw on their own experiences and beliefs

Teaching and learning

Learning activities provide fully for the needs of all pupils, so that they develop a wide range of skills including enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and reflection. RE lessons provide a safe space to explore their own religious, spiritual and/or philosophical ways of seeing, living and thinking, believing and belonging. They provide opportunities to engage in meaningful and informed dialogue with those of all religions and worldviews.

Pupils experience opportunities to learn and express themselves through an enquiry-based style of learning by:

- ✚ Posing and discussing 'big' and challenging questions
- ✚ Reading and critically analysing texts.
- ✚ Interpreting information from different sources.
- ✚ Seeking information for themselves in libraries and on computers.
- ✚ Listening to and discussing with the teacher and other pupils.
- ✚ Engaging in pair and group work.
- ✚ Exploring a range of media such as artefacts, pictures, photographs, music and drama.
- ✚ Experiencing visits and visitors.
- ✚ Taking part in outdoor learning.
- ✚ Taking time for reflection.

Teaching in RE challenges stereotypes, misinformation and misconceptions about race, gender and religion. Lessons seek to present religions and world views in all their richness and diversity in terms of beliefs, traditions, customs and lifestyle in a sensitive and accurate way in order to encourage a positive attitude towards diversity. All questions, views, and opinions are treated with sensitivity and respect.

Teachers establish clear links between elements of religious belief and practice and aspects of the children's own lives. Teaching enables pupils to gain something of personal value from their study of religious belief and practice, for example, the way that they might apply insights gained from religious stories to their own lives.

Cross-curricular links

Religious education supports the development of general educational abilities such as literacy, empathy and the ability to express thoughts, feelings and personal beliefs. RE also makes a major contribution to pupils' SMSC development. It addresses issues which arise in a range of subjects, such as English, art, drama and history, geography, computing, music as well as personal, social and emotional education and citizenship.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

Assessment in religious education will:

- ✚ Involve identifying suitable opportunities in schemes of work such as Understanding Christianity.
- ✚ Be directly related to the expectations of the Rochester Diocesan syllabus
- ✚ Seek to identify development in the different areas of learning in the subject and not only in the acquisition of factual knowledge.
- ✚ Recognise the range of skills and attitudes which the subject seeks to develop.
- ✚ Employ well defined criteria for marking and assessment which identify progress and achievement as well as effort, following the school's marking policy.
- ✚ Include pupil self-assessment.
- ✚ Enable effective tracking of pupil progress to identify areas for development in pupil's knowledge and understanding, as well as whole school areas for development.
- ✚ Enable effective reporting to parents.

Role of the RE subject leader

The subject leader will:

- ✚ Ensure that all pupils receive their legal entitlement of religious education.
- ✚ Ensure RE provision reflects the [Church of England Statement of Entitlement](#).
- ✚ Produce and regularly review a subject policy to ensure that it remains up to date.
- ✚ Ensure all teachers know what should be taught in religious education, what resources are available, and what standards of attainment are expected at the end of each Key Stage.
- ✚ Monitor and review the implementation of policy and units of work.
- ✚ Monitor the quality and effectiveness of teaching and learning in RE and pupils' progress and standards.
- ✚ Ensure there are rigorous assessment systems in place to enable teachers and pupils to gauge progress and attainment in RE.
- ✚ Monitor, analyse and question RE assessments carried out by staff.
- ✚ Liaise with the HT and Governors to feedback on the monitoring and impact of RE across the school.
- ✚ Support colleagues by sharing new ideas and pedagogy, to help develop their subject confidence and expertise through CPD opportunities and support sessions.
- ✚ Seek opportunities to share effective practice locally and regionally and engage in professional development for themselves and other staff members.
- ✚ Oversee the RE budget and monitor RE resources to ensure they are kept and stored respectfully and replaced where necessary.
- ✚ Ensure there is a school protocol, that covers safeguarding procedures and a suitability process, for when visitors are invited into RE lessons.

Resources

Religious education will be funded to enable a range of resources on different religions to be purchased, such as books for teachers, pupils and the library; posters, CDs, DVDs and artefacts. The school makes use of guidance material produced by the Diocese.

Funding will also allow, where possible, visits to different places of worship and provide INSET for staff.

Resource banks will be available for both staff and pupils on all major religions and world views as appropriate.

Health and Safety

Health and safety issues may arise in religious education on a number of occasions for example, when pupils:

- Handle artefacts.
- Consume food.
- Visit places of worship.

Teachers will conform to guidelines in the school's health and safety policy in these circumstances.

Legal Requirements

Religious Education must be provided for all registered pupils in full time education except those withdrawn at their parents' request.

(DfE Circular 1 / 94, paragraphs 44 & 49, and Non-Statutory Guidance 2010 page 28)

The law relating to Religious Education for pupils who are not yet in key stage 1 is different from that relating to subjects of the National Curriculum. As Religious Education must be taught to 'all registered pupils at the school', it includes pupils in reception classes, but not those in nursery classes or play groups.

The school will comply with any request from a parent to withdraw their child and parents are not required to give their reasons for wanting to do so. However, in view of the Christian ethos and distinctive Christian character of our school, we would hope that all children admitted will participate fully in RE, and that anyone wishing to withdraw their child should discuss this with the headteacher before making this decision.

RE



Wouldham All Saints Church of England Primary School

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Headteacher : *Mr Carl Fitter B-Ed(Hons) NPQH*

Statement of Religious Education Curriculum Intent

January 2020

At Wouldham All Saints Church of England Primary School, our religious education curriculum is based on the Church of England's statement of entitlement and meets the requirements of the Kent Agreed Syllabus for RE and following the Rochester Diocese Board of Education materials.

We want all children to flourish and live life in all its fullness, being educated for dignity and respect, encouraging all to live well together.

Children are consistently encouraged to Fly HIGH which summarises our school vision to ...

- ✚ Be HAPPY to be God's special children
- ✚ Strive to be IMPROVING all of the time
- ✚ Work hard at being GOOD at communicating
- ✚ With HIGH expectations of ourselves and each other

We aim to 'make our best our standard' in all aspects of RE learning.

At Wouldham All Saints Church of England Primary School we make RE memorable, relevant and enjoyable.

Children are engaged and challenged and provided with high quality opportunities to explore and reflect on big questions.

Understanding Christianity is a key component to success but we also learn about a number of other world faiths within contemporary British society. Religious and sacred texts are studied in age appropriate detail so that children can fully appreciate the historical and social context of different religions.

RE is an academic subject and we expect standards comparable to other core subjects.

The curriculum is progressive and regularly returns to core Christian concepts with greater depth on each occasion.

Learning activities are creative and consider the whole child, enabling expression through drama, art, music, craft as well as formal and informal writing. Lessons will include regular chances to be reflective and consider own experiences in support of spiritual development.



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	AUTUMN		SPRING		SUMMER	
EYFS	<p>CREATION Why is the word 'God' so important to Christians?</p>	<p>INCARNATION Why do Christians perform Nativity plays at Christmas?</p>	<p>What do Christians believe is special about Jesus and the message that he brings?</p>	<p>SALVATION Why do Christians put a cross in an Easter garden?</p>	<p>What can we learn from Old Testament stories?</p>	<p>What stories are told by and about people of different faiths and beliefs? with support from RE Today unit</p>
Key Stage I family						
Year 1	<p>GOD What do Christians believe that God is like?</p>	<p>INCARNATION Why does Christmas matter to Christians? <i>CORE LEARNING</i></p>	<p>GOSPEL What is the good news that Jesus brings? <i>CORE LEARNING</i></p>	<p>SALVATION Why does Easter matter to Christians? <i>CORE LEARNING</i></p>	<p>JUDAISM Who is Jewish and what do they believe?</p>	<p>JUDAISM Who is Jewish and what do they believe?</p>
Year 2	<p>CREATION Who made the world?</p>	<p>INCARNATION Why does Christmas matter to Christians? <i>DIGGING DEEPER</i></p>	<p>GOSPEL What is the good news that Jesus brings? <i>DIGGING DEEPER</i></p>	<p>SALVATION Why does Easter matter to Christians? <i>DIGGING DEEPER</i></p>	<p>ISLAM Who is a Muslim and what do they believe?</p>	<p>ISLAM Who is a Muslim and what do they believe?</p>

Lower Key Stage II family						
Year 3	PEOPLE OF GOD What is it like to follow God?	SIKHISM What is important for Sikh people? CHRISTMAS theme 2 lessons	INCARNATION What is the Trinity? <i>CORE LEARNING</i>	SALVATION Why do Christians call the day Jesus died 'Good Friday'? <i>CORE LEARNING</i>	KINGDOM OF GOD When Jesus left, what was the impact of Pentecost?	SIKHISM How do Sikh people worship and celebrate?
Year 4	CREATION What do Christians learn from the Creation story?	INCARNATION What is the Trinity? <i>DIGGING DEEPER</i>	GOSPEL What kind of a world did Jesus want?	SALVATION Why do Christians call the day Jesus died 'Good Friday'? <i>DIGGING DEEPER</i>	HINDUISM What does it mean to be a Hindu in Britain today?	Why do some people think that life is a journey and what significant experiences mark this?
	AUTUMN		SPRING		SUMMER	AUTUMN
Upper Key Stage II family						
Year 5	GOD What does it mean if God is loving and holy?	INCARNATION Was Jesus the Messiah? <i>CORE LEARNING</i>	PEOPLE OF GOD How can following God bring freedom and justice?	SALVATION What did Jesus do to save human beings?	JUDAISM What does it mean to be Jewish in Britain today?	ISLAM What does it mean to be a Muslim in Britain today?
Year 6	CREATION Creation and science: conflicting or complementary? in the wider context of 'Big Questions'	GOSPEL What would Jesus do? CHRISTMAS theme 2 lessons	KINGDOM OF GOD What kind of king is Jesus?	SALVATION What difference does the resurrection make for Christians?	Is it better to express your beliefs in arts and architecture or in charity and generosity?	ISLAM What does it mean to be a Muslim in Britain today?