



Our school Christian Values: **Respect, Self-worth/Perseverance, Love, Kindness, Forgiveness**

Wittersham Church of England Primary School

INSPIRE NURTURE WORK TOGETHER

Wittersham Church of England Primary School promotes development of our Christian values **Respect, Self-worth/Perseverance, Love, Kindness, Forgiveness**

Religious Education Policy

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| Author(S): | Mrs G Double |
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Rationale

Religious education seeks to make a major contribution to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of children by helping them to acquire a knowledge and understanding of the major world religions, an appreciation of ultimate questions and responses to them, and to develop their own beliefs and values.

Aims

- To gain a knowledge and understanding of the beliefs and practices of major world religions, especially Christianity.
 - To provide an arena in which the school's Christian Values of Respect, Self-worth/Perseverance, Love, Kindness and Forgiveness can be explored and developed.
 - To provoke challenging questions about the meaning and purpose of life, beliefs, the self, issues of right and wrong, and what it means to be human. It develops students' knowledge of Christianity, other principal religions, and religious traditions that examine these questions, fostering personal reflection and spiritual development
 - To encourage students to explore their own beliefs (whether they are religious or non-religious), in the light of what they learn, as they examine issues of religious belief and faith and how these impact on personal, institutional and social ethics; and to express their responses. This also builds resilience to anti-democratic or extremist narratives.
 - Enable students to build their sense of identity and belonging, which helps them flourish within their communities and as citizens in a diverse society
 - Teach students to develop respect for others, including people with different faiths and beliefs, and helps to challenge prejudice
 - Prompt students to consider their responsibilities to themselves and to others, and to explore how they might contribute to their communities and to wider society. It encourages empathy, generosity and compassion.
 - Develop a sense of awe, wonder and mystery
 - To meet legal requirements for state and church schools

The aims inform the planning, teaching and assessment of Religious Education. The detailed Objectives, medium planning and assessment criteria are laid out clearly in the scheme of work. The scheme of work uses The Diocese of Canterbury Revised RE Scheme of Work (July 2014), that is based on the Kent Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education, as the basis of our planning.

The contribution Religious Education makes to other curriculum areas:

RE contributes to student's spiritual development by:-

- Discussing and reflecting on questions of meaning and truth such as the origins of the universe, good and evil, life after death, beliefs about God and humanity and values such as justice, honesty and truth.
- Learning about and reflecting on important concepts and experiences such as love, trust, forgiveness, obedience and sacrifice.

- Valuing relationships and developing a sense of belonging.
- Considering how religions and beliefs regard the value and purpose of human beings, the importance of the environment and the significance of emotions such as love, anger, joy, jealousy, happiness and pain.
- Developing their own ideas and views on religious and spiritual issues.

RE contributes to moral development by:-

- By enabling students to value themselves and others.
- Exploring the influence of family, friends and other sources on moral choices.+
- Considering what is of ultimate value both to students and people within religious traditions.
- Developing an understanding in religion of the key values and moral choices.
- Considering ethical issues especially justice which promotes racial and religious respect.
- Exploring the influence of family, friends and media on moral choices and how society is influenced by teachings and guidance from religions and beliefs.

Reflecting on the importance of rights and responsibilities and developing a sense of conscience

RE contributes to student's social development by:-

- Considering how religious and other beliefs lead to particular actions and concerns.
- Reflecting on the importance of friendship and positive relationships.
- Investigating social issues from religious perspectives, recognising the diversity of viewpoints within and between religions.

RE contributes to student's cultural development by:-

- Encountering people, stories, artifacts and resources from differing cultures.
- Promoting respect for all, combating prejudice and discrimination.
- Challenging stereotypes of religion and beliefs.

Community Cohesion by:-

- Providing a key context in which to develop students' understanding and appreciation of diversity, to promote shared values and to challenge racism and discrimination in:
 - the school community
 - the community within which the school is located
 - The UK community
 - The Global community

RE and the use of language

RE can also make an important contribution to student's use of language by enabling them to:-

- Acquire and develop a specialist vocabulary
- Communicate their ideas with clarity.
- Listen and respond to the views and ideas of others.
- Be inspired by the power and beauty of language.
- Write in different styles such as poetry, diaries and extended writing.
- Highlight their own ideas and those of others.

Approaches to teaching Religious Education

RE is an exciting curriculum subject so we employ a variety of teaching methods.

These include:

- Visiting places of worship and receiving visitors from faith communities
- Using art, drama, music to enrich students understanding
- Using regular times of quiet reflection for students to develop their own thoughts and ideas
- Using pictures, photographs and stories to enhance students learning
- Using artefacts to help students develop their understanding of religious beliefs and forms of expression
- Discussing religious and philosophical questions giving reasons for their own beliefs and those of others
- Developing the use of ICT (particularly DVDs and the internet) to promote understanding of religions and beliefs.

RE is taught through a range of religions and beliefs and key themes.

Teaching and Learning

The ways in which we teach, and the children learn in all subjects are identified in the Wittersham Teaching and Learning Policy. Aspects such as differentiation, special needs, variety of teaching styles, and assessment will be considered in the same way as all other subjects.

Breadth and Balance

Christianity is given a weighting of 60% of the Religious Education curriculum time throughout the school. The remaining 40% is devoted to a deeper knowledge and understanding of world religions and religious traditions, but also to develop a range

of skills such as the ability to emphasise and evaluate attitudes and respect for diversity.

Relevance

Religious Education is made relevant in two ways. Firstly, teachers establish clear links between the elements of religious practice and aspects of the children's own lives. Secondly, we seek to enable children to gain something of personal value from their study of religious beliefs and practices, e.g. applying messages from religious stories to their own lives.

Christian Values

The school has chosen values which are relevant to the needs of the school and are rooted in biblical teaching. These are Respect, Self-worth/Perseverance, Love, Kindness and Forgiveness. They explore these through Collective Worship, Religious Education and everyday applications.

Equal Opportunities

We aim to use Religious Education to challenge stereotypes, misinformation and misconceptions about race, gender and religion. We seek to present religions in all their richness in terms of beliefs, traditions, customs and lifestyle in a sensitive and accurate way in order to encourage our children to have a positive attitude towards diversity.

Cross Curricular Links

Religious Education makes a contribution to the development of our children's education generally, for example seeing the world through other people's eyes in literacy or history and developing the ability to express thoughts, feelings and personal beliefs. Religious Education also makes a major contribution to children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. As it is concerned with values and behaviour, it also makes a significant contribution towards citizenship, and the School Council.

Health and Safety

Due account will be taken of health and safety guidelines and appropriate risk assessments for out of school visits.

Assessment and Reporting

Assessment and reporting follows the procedure laid out in the Teaching and Learning Policy. The scheme identifies aspects of AT1 and AT2 for each lesson that can be used for assessment and a picture of achievement is built up over the year. Religious Education is included in our reports to parents.

Coordinating Religious Education

Mrs Gillian Double and Rev Judy Darkins (Link Governor) are responsible for the management, delivery and monitoring of the Religious Education Policy and Scheme of Work.

Key features of the role are as follows:

- To ensure that all children have their entitlement to Religious Education following the agreed Scheme of Work.
- To ensure that all teachers know what they are teaching and how they should be assessing.

- To ensure that resources for teaching and learning are ordered and available or to know where they can be obtained.
- To support colleagues in the development of their expertise.
- To monitor the quality and effectiveness of the teaching, learning and assessment of Religious Education throughout the school. This includes book scrutiny each term and pupil conferencing.
- To seek opportunities for professional development for all members of staff.
- To support specific development identified in the School Development Plan by writing an action plan and leading the development identified.
- To review the policy every three years.

Resources

These include web-based resources, books, CD’s, artefacts, posters, and pictures. All resources are stored in the area of the Scheme of Work they support.

The legal Position of Religious Education

RE must be provided for all registered pupils at the school in accordance with Schedule 19 to the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. In Canterbury Diocese, the Diocesan Board of Education recommends that all Church schools follow the Diocesan Schemes of Work which are based on the Kent Locally Agreed Syllabus. This takes account of the 1996 Education Act which requires the syllabus to reflect that the religious traditions of Great Britain are **in the main Christian** whilst taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain. Religious Education is inspected under Section 48 of the Education Act (Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools [SIAS]) .

Right of withdrawal from Religious Education

We firmly believe that RE is an important subject in the children’s learning. It is a major contributor to the ethos of our school. However, we fully recognize the legal right of parents to withdraw their children from all or any part of RE on the grounds of conscience. We do encourage parents to contact the Headteacher if they have any concerns about RE provision and practice at the school.

**Date of policy :..... Signed (Chair of
Governors).....**

Date of policy review:.....