

**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. The agreed Heartwood definition for spirituality which has been agreed by stakeholders across all four schools is 'Spirituality is the opening of hearts and minds, through reflection, and questioning of the world; which lifts the soul and makes the heart sing. For some, it will be experienced through faith and worship'.

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 2017-2022)

To enable pupils to:-

- Develop an awareness of the spiritual and moral dimensions of life experiences.
- Enable children to know and understand Christianity as a living world faith, by exploring core theological concepts.
- To develop childrens' abilities to critically reflect upon, evaluate and apply their learning to their own understanding of religion and belief.
- Have confident viewpoints, whilst engaging in open and honest enquiry, respecting others' beliefs which may be different from their own, in a religiously diverse society.
- Actively encourage Christian values which include British Values.

### **Organisation. General:**

- Religious Education is taught in accordance with the law as set out in the Education Reform Act 1988 and at Woodside the curriculum is based mainly on 'Understanding Christianity' alongside the Coventry and Warwickshire agreed syllabus for RE (2017-2022)
- 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/carers 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 and Subject Content:**

There is a long term plan for RE across the school for each year group which;

- ensures that the key processes: learning from religion (AT1) and learning from religion (AT2) are addressed and linked
- 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.
  - as a Church of England school content is mainly from Christianity but both Islam and Hindu are also explored using links to the Coventry and Warwickshire agreed syllabus for RE (2017-2022)
- children encounter three other traditions (Hinduism, Buddhism and Judaism) on at least one occasion each year.

At Woodside Primary School teachers, organise the delivery of this as appropriate for the needs of each individual class and child.

Effective links are made across the curriculum within and alongside the 'Cornerstones' curriculum and are important in developing the social, moral, spiritual and cultural development of the children.

A class RE book records what the children have learnt and this consists of photos/written work/discussions/exploration of big questions and art work. Children are assessed as working below/At/At greater depth for each of the RE themes taught.

### **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. Engagement with the Faith Belief Forum enables this to be planned into KS2 at least annually.

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

### **Resources**

- Resources are housed in the KS1 corridor
- Each classroom has a prayer area which includes a cross, the Lord's Prayer and the School Prayer and other artifacts to support reflection.
- Prayer box and prayer cards are available for children to use at any time.

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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, Understanding Christianity (from the Birmingham Diocese) and the L.A. agreed syllabus. It will be reviewed on a bi-annual basis.

(See RE MTP attached)

Agreed January 2021