

Wootton C.E. Primary School

Policy Statement for R.E.

Wootton St Peter's is a Church of England School and Religious Education is an essential part of the preparation for life that our school provides. We seek to provide a thorough grounding in the Christian faith and a wider understanding of other religions that will be of benefit to all our pupils, regardless of their backgrounds. We endeavour to foster children's spiritual awareness and to develop a reflective approach to their own experiences. We hope to enable them to make their own decisions about personal faith and to learn to be respectful towards those who hold different beliefs. As a Church School, we would expect all children to participate in this important area of the curriculum but we recognise that parents are entitled to withdraw their children. Any parental concerns should be addressed to the Headteacher.

In line with the Oxfordshire Agreed Syllabus for Education 2015-2020, our aims are:

- to teach children about Christianity and other religions in a way that enables them to understand what it means to hold a religious belief;
- to promote tolerance, understanding and sensitivity towards those whose beliefs are different to our own;
- to give children the chance to raise and reflect on perennial questions about life. (Oxf agreed syllabus)
- formulate reasoned opinions/arguments in relation to controversial issues and truth claims

Thus there are two main educational purposes to RE:

- For pupils to learn **about** religions and beliefs which have influenced the lives of millions of people and heavily influenced the development of different human cultures.
- For pupils to learn more about themselves and their place in the world **from** their increasingly academic and creative exploration of religions and beliefs (Oxf agreed syllabus)

Guide-lines:

Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 Scheme of Work

Christianity and one other religion are being studied. "The agreed Syllabus for Religious Education in Oxfordshire 2015" is adopted as the basis of R.E. planning.

The religions to be studied are:

Christianity

Judaism

Key Stage 2 Scheme of Work

Christianity and two other religions are being studied. "The agreed Syllabus for Religious Education in Oxfordshire 2015" is adopted as the basis of R.E. planning.

The religions to be studied are:

Christianity

Judaism

Islam

There are options to study other religions as well, at the teacher's discretion.

Religious Education in the classroom is independent of "Collective Worship" but maybe enhanced by the latter.

Approaches to Religious Education

'Discovery RE' is the scheme which we follow at Wootton St. Peter's. It is a comprehensive scheme which provides key questions and lesson plans that show how to approach the consideration of the key question, but still allows for the teacher to be creative in planning each unit. In accordance with the Oxfordshire Agreed Syllabus, the enquiry approach aims to 'reach pupils of any religious faith or none, and of all academic abilities'. It aims to challenge pupils to reflect on, engage with, question and explore their own and others' understanding of life'.

Each term of planning in Discovery RE covers a different faith, with a key question to be considered. RE lessons usually occur weekly, but can be blocked together over the period of a week, which works particularly well for older children.

Links to other areas of the curriculum are made whenever appropriate.

Discovery RE encourages varied styles of teaching and follow up, to encourage questioning and reflection, and to appeal to different types of learner. These may include:

- Storytelling
- Listening to bible stories and stories from other faiths
- Video clips and other resources via the internet
- Creating scenes from bible stories, using modelling materials and other craft techniques
- Creating scenes with drama or role play
- Discussion and debate
- Making comic strips to retell an event or story
- Writing prayers and poems
- Making a presentation or display to present to others
- Looking at or handling artefacts
- Recreating an event or celebration from a particular faith

- Talks by members of the community; (local vicar, members of other faiths)
- Godly Play story sacks
- Class or group discussion, reflection, sharing;
- Imaginative writing
- visits to places of worship in the locality;
- Reading stories and poems
- Close observation of art

Religious Education plays an important part in the spiritual, moral and cultural development of our children. The school encourages positive attitudes, respect for others and an atmosphere where different points of view are valued.

Resources

The teaching of Religious Education is supported and enhanced by existing resources including artefacts, books – factual and fiction, Godly Play sacks, visits to religious places, visitors, DVDs, art, and music. Children are taught to treat religious artefacts with appropriate respect. Provision is continually being improved by the regular updating and expansion of resources. Teacher planning resources used are Discovery RE and Understanding Christianity.

Assessment and recording

Teacher assessment is an integral part of our scheme of work and helps to inform our ongoing planning. From year 1, children have their own RE files/books in which all activities are recorded whether as pieces of writing, pictures or photos of creative activities and drama. Children's work is marked and annotated where appropriate in their books throughout KS1 and KS2. At the end of each unit, a child's progress in RE will be assessed. The R.E. coordinator monitors standards through monitoring of books. Parents are informed about their child's progress in Religious Education within the annual school report.

Equal Opportunities

All children have an entitlement to the fullest possible experiences regardless of race, gender, faith and particular learning requirements.

Signed: Kath Ridley (Subject Coordinator)

Signed: Fiona Rose (Headteacher)