

Religious Education Policy

Aims:

- To support the development of children's own values and to contribute to their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- To encourage interpretation of and response to a variety of religious concepts, beliefs and practice within their own and others cultural and life experiences.
- To encourage the fostering of a responsible and caring attitude towards each other, through an awareness of themselves and their relationships with others in the community.
- To prepare children for the responsibilities, opportunities and experiences of later life.
- To provide equality of opportunity for all children, regardless of age, ability, ethnicity, gender or race.

School Values/ Expectations:

- Achievement of high standards is a priority for all pupils.
- The key characteristics(learning skills) of successful learners are understood by the school community.
- The development of learning skills is central to all planning that is the foundation to the curriculum.
- The acquisition of learning skills is given a high priority and status through a challenging classroom ethos and vibrant environment.
- All adults are actively seeking to develop their knowledge, skills and understanding of high quality learning.

Key Subject Skills

- Develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other major world religions.
- Develop an understanding of what it means to be committed to a religious tradition.
- Develop interests and opinions about simple concepts that are common to themselves and religions.
- Develop the ability to listen and to think critically, spiritually, ethically and theologically.

Objectives:

RE at Awbridge and Wellow is taught in accordance with the legal requirements of the Agreed Syllabus for Hampshire "Living Difference" revised 2011. This syllabus places emphasis on children's exploration of meaning purpose and value of different faiths, through a concept driven approach. We follow the recommended allocation of 36 hours of taught RE for the Foundation stage and Key stage 1 and 45 hours of taught RE for Key stage 2.

Continuity and progression in children's knowledge and understanding is provided through carefully developed long term and medium term planned units. For children in the Foundation Stage, links are made with Early Learning Goals and for all the younger children, they encounter simple concepts which are within their own experience e.g. celebration, specialness, community.

The children will encounter religious stories, festivals, artefacts, make visits to and identify features of different places of worship. Children study Christianity and one other religion

(Judaism at Wellow) in Key stage 1 and two other religions (Hinduism & Islam at Wellow) in Key stage 2. By the end of Key Stage 2 they will have explored in some depth, aspects of Christianity and three other major world religions- Hinduism, Judaism and Islam.

Through playing an active role in RE sessions, circle times, celebrating success, appreciating difference, developing speaking and listening skills, empathizing and thinking deeply about issues which affect their spiritual and moral development, all pupils are contributing to their own and others RE. Pupils have a responsibility to listen to others in a supportive environment and there are many forums in which they can express their views, concerns and opinions have a meaningful impact on the lives of others (eg School Council, Eco- Council, Education Uganda and other Charity work)

It is our intention to pursue these objectives though taught opportunities delivered through discrete curriculum time, in blocked units and as far as possible through cross curricular links (Literacy, drama, Music, Art, History, ICT, and Citizenship).

Pupils will:

- Develop an awareness of spiritual and moral issues in life experiences.
- Develop a sense of awe and wonder through first hand experiences.
- Be able to reflect on their own experiences and recognize and express their own values and beliefs.
- Develop investigative skills and research skills to enable them to make reasoned judgments about religious issues.
- Have respect for other people's views and celebrate the diversity of society and challenge prejudice.
- Foster links with the local community, welcoming visitors to the school.
- Be prepared for adult life, employment and life long learning.
- Respect the availability of time to talk openly and honestly.
- Experience lessons taught in accordance with the teaching and learning policy, through a mix of whole class, groups and individual approaches using differentiated tasks.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from parts of, or all RE lessons (ERA 1988). Pupils who are withdrawn are supervised and provided with alternative activities.

Formulation of Policy:

All staff consulted to develop policy ideas on & Policy draft completed and ratified by Governors