

LOVE, TRUST, COMMUNITY



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

**WICKHAMBREAUX C.E.P.
SCHOOL**

Wickhambreaux Church of England Primary School

Policy for Religious Education

Rationale

Religious Education seeks to make a major contribution to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils by helping them to acquire a knowledge and understanding of major world religions, and to develop their own beliefs and values. All Church of England Controlled schools should teach Religious Education in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus. Wickhambreaux Church of England School follows the Kent Agreed Syllabus (revised 2012) and guidance made available by the Diocese.

Aims

The aims of the school are outlined in the school improvement plan.

In addition to these we wish to:

- Enable pupils to learn about religions and to learn from them
- To gain a knowledge and understanding of the beliefs and practices of major world religions, especially Christianity
- To enable pupils to consider ways in which beliefs, values and traditions might have significance for their own lives
- To enable pupils to develop the ability to make their own reasoned and informed judgements about the religious and moral issues which arise from reflection on human experience and a study of religious belief and practice.

Objectives

These objectives should inform planning, teaching and assessment.

- To identify and describe the key features of Christianity and other major religions, such as key figures, teachings, ceremonies, festivals and sacred writings.
- To identify elements common to a number of religions, such as public worship and marriage ceremonies.
- To identify features which are distinctive of particular religious traditions.
- To become aware of the ultimate questions which life raises such as – Is there a God? and to appreciate the different answers offered by religions and other traditions.
- To engage with issues which arise from a study of religions such as the value of special times and rituals, days for worship and festivals, mourning rituals and funerals.

- To appreciate that much of personal value can be gained from a study of the teachings of living religions.
- To appreciate the value of religious ritual and practice such as silence, stillness and reflection.

Breadth and Balance

Christianity is the main focus for study at Wickhambreaux Church of England School.

It is important that the legal requirements for RE are met and that the curriculum is therefore broad and balanced. To ensure this requirement is met, Christianity will be studied throughout each Key Stage and the other principal religions represented in Great Britain will be studied across the Key Stages. It is important to teach the religions recommended at each Key Stage to maintain the balance, continuity and progression of provision and promote respect and understanding among pupils of all faiths and none. We will also take into account the faith profile of our pupils across the school.

Teaching

Religious Education is statutorily required to be included alongside the National Curriculum as part of the “basic curriculum”. It has equal standing with other National Curriculum subjects. The Kent Agreed Syllabus requires a minimum of 5% curriculum time as follows:-

36 hours per year at Key Stage 1
45 hours per year at Key Stage 2

Collective worship is not considered to be part of the recommended time for teaching RE.

Teaching Styles

Pupils will experience a wide variety of teaching and learning experiences. They will experience opportunities to learn and express themselves through

- Listening
- Reading
- Seeking information for themselves
- Discussion
- Pair and group work
- Using a range of media-artefacts, pictures, music and drama
- Visits and visitors

Regular opportunities will be provided for pupils to raise their own questions and to explore answers to them and reflect on the fundamental issues addressed in Religious Education.

Religious Education will be made relevant to the children in two ways. Firstly, teachers will establish clear links between elements of religious beliefs and practice and aspects of the children’s own lives. Secondly, teaching will

seek to enable pupils to gain something of personal value from their study of religious beliefs and practice.

Cross-curricular Links

Religious Education can make a significant contribution to education in citizenship and P.S.H.E. It also addresses issues which arise in a range of subjects including English and History.

Differentiation and Additional Educational Needs

Policy and practice in Religious Education will reflect whole school practice and encompass the full range of age and ability including the most able. The full range of strategies to achieve differentiated learning will be employed including task, outcome, resource, support and pupil grouping.

Equal Opportunities

Religious Education will challenge stereotypes, misinformation and misconceptions about race, gender and religion. It will seek to present religions 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 that diversity.

Religious Education is taught to “all registered pupils at the school” and so includes children in their Reception Year.

Health and Safety

These issues may arise on a number of occasions, for example when handling artefacts or tasting food. Teachers will conform to guidelines within the school health and safety policy in these circumstances.

Assessment, recording and reporting

The school's marking policy applies to Religious Education.

Parents will receive information on their child's progress in their annual school report. Assessment will seek to identify development in the different areas of learning in this subject and will relate to the attainment targets. It will also recognise the range of skills and attitudes which the subject seeks to develop and will include pupil self-assessment where possible.

Withdrawal from Religious Education

A parent of a pupil may request

- That their child be wholly or partly excused from receiving Religious Education.
- That a child who is excused may receive Religious Education of the kind desired by the parent elsewhere, provided that it will not interfere with the attendance of the child on any day except at the beginning or end of a school session

- That a child who is excused may receive Religious Education of the kind desired by the parent on the school premises provided that it does not entail any expenditure of the responsible authority.

At Wickhambreaux we request that parents put their requests in writing.

Resources

Religious Education will receive an allocation from the school's budget that will allow the purchase of the necessary range of resources. This will be managed by the subject manager. Resources will be listed, stored safely and be easily accessible. Maintenance will be the responsibility of the subject manager.

Subject Manager

The subject manager will

- Produce and review a subject policy.
- Seek to ensure that all pupils receive their entitlement of Religious Education and that sufficient curriculum time is available to deliver the statutory syllabus
- Support colleagues through continued professional development.
- Develop strategies to monitor and review the implementation of policy and curriculum, the quality and effectiveness of the delivery of the subject, pupil's progress and standards of achievement. Monitoring will be related to the S.I.P. and the school's monitoring timetable.
- Order and manage resources

This policy will be reviewed as necessary.