

Woodford Church of England Primary School

R.E. and Collective Worship Policy

Date policy revised: June 2019

1. Introduction

British values of democracy, liberty, the rule of law, individual learning, tolerance and respect are essential to the every-day life of our school. Children are taught to understand their personal freedoms and responsibilities.

We welcome pupil and staff diversity and will challenge pupils, staff or parents expressing views contrary to fundamental British values, including any extremist views.

As a Church of England School, we endeavour to recognise its historic foundation, to preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England. We aim to serve our community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian beliefs and practice. We encourage an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promote Christian values through the experiences we offer pupils.

At Woodford School we encourage an understanding of faith and culture in our diverse world and reflect upon the Christian values of joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

We aim to develop a knowledge and understanding of the beliefs and customs of a variety of cultures. At the same time we encourage a basic Christian code to enable each child to build on a range of values taken from the Christian ethos.

At Woodford we aim to help children:

- Learn about religion.
- Learn from religion.
- Explore their own (and others) beliefs and traditions in a meaningful and engaging way.
- Develop an understanding of religious traditions and appreciate cultural diversity.
- Grow individually and together with sensitivity and respect towards people of all faiths and none.
- Develop an awareness of spiritual and moral issues.
- Develop their knowledge of the Bible.
- Reflect on their experiences.
- Foster a caring attitude towards others and their environment.
- Develop investigative and research skills, and enable them to make reasoned judgements about religious issues.

2. Attendance in RE lessons

The 1988 Education Reform Act stipulates that RE is compulsory for all children but allows parents the right to withdraw their child from classes if they so wish. Parents may withdraw children from Religious Education provided they give prior written notification to the Head Teacher and Governors. We note that teachers can exercise their right to withdraw from teaching RE if they wish to do so but only with the same prior notification.

RE does not seek to urge religious beliefs on children or staff, or to compromise the integrity of their own beliefs by promoting one religion over another. We hope that everyone will feel comfortable with the Religious Education being taught.

4. Collective Worship

The aims and objectives of Religious Education are different and distinct from those of collective worship. RE is about developing skills, knowledge and understanding in order to make decisions about the important questions. Collective Worship is about being given the opportunity to participate in an experience which can lead to a heightened sense of spiritual awareness.

At Woodford CE Primary school we uphold the 1988 Education Reform Act which requires schools to hold an act of worship every day. This does not have to be held for the whole school assembled together, but can be carried out in groups.

While acknowledging a need for respect and some understanding of other major world faiths and customs, our acts of worship reflect the Christian character of our school. They are also appropriate to the age and family backgrounds of our community.

Collective Worship is an opportunity to celebrate all aspects of school life. In our worship, we seek to reflect the Christian foundation of the school. The children are encouraged to understand and share the meaning of Christian worship.

Aims of collective Worship:

- To provide children with stillness, reflection and an opportunity for prayer.
- To promote children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- To celebrate the values and worth of our school, including the sharing of pupils' gifts and talents.
- To develop respect and understanding of the nature and language of Christian worship.

Collective Worship can be used to develop links with the wider school community. Parents and others in the community are given opportunities to join the school and share our worship on several occasions during the school year. Children also have the opportunity to participate in, and occasionally lead assembly. Where possible some acts of collective worship will be held at the church.

Examples of our Collective Worship:

- Prayer in school assemblies, sometimes led by the clergy.
- Prayer in class assemblies.
- Prayer at lunchtimes.

5. Curriculum

RE at Woodford CE Primary follows the Diocese of Peterborough Syllabus for Religious Education (2019-2024) which includes the Understanding Christianity Units (2017)

In order to deliver the aims and expected standards of the Syllabus , the allocated times are as follows:

- In Reception - a minimum of 30 hours per year identifiable within adult led activities.
- In Key Stage 1 – 36 hours per year.
- In Key Stage 2 – 45 hours per year.

It is important to note that RE is a core subject for all pupils. Curriculum time for Religious Education is distinct from the time spent in Collective Worship.

The Religious Education Programmes of Study can be found on the school system, in the Diocese of Peterborough Syllabus for Religious Education and in the RE subject lead file. The programmes of study lay down the requirements for teaching and learning in each age group.

6. Teaching and Learning

The specified units are delivered over a 2 year rolling programme.

Cross curricular work is encouraged. We recognise the importance of teaching the Attainment Targets of the Agreed Syllabus in a balanced way.

The learning of Religious Education includes a variety of tasks including: discussions, drama, art, ICT and music. Written recording will only be used if it is appropriate. RE should be a time of class discussion and reflection.

We try to ensure that visitors from different faith communities and visits to places of worship are planned into the RE programme of study where possible. This helps to develop community cohesion through Religious Education.

7. Assessment

Pupil's work in RE is assessed by making informal judgements both by staff and pupils themselves during lessons. At the end of each unit of work, unit outcomes will be used to make a more formal assessment. These will be handed into the RE subject leader. This will inform planning for the next unit.

8. Monitoring and Evaluation

The Subject Leader will maintain active awareness of the strengths and weaknesses of the subject, in line with the OFSTED guidance about self-evaluation and review.