

Wicklewood Primary School and Nursery

Religious Education Policy

1. Aims and objectives

Religious education enables children to investigate and reflect on some of the most fundamental questions asked by people. At Wicklewood School we develop the children's knowledge and understanding of the major world faiths, and we address the fundamental questions in life, for example, the meaning of life and the existence of a divine spirit. We enable children to develop a sound knowledge not only of Christianity but also of other world religions. Children reflect on what it means to have a faith and to develop their own spiritual knowledge and understanding. We help the children learn *from* religions as well as *about* religions.

The aims of religious education are to help children:

- Develop an understanding of the word religion.
- Develop an awareness of spiritual and moral issues in life experiences
- Develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other major world religions
- Be able to reflect on their own experiences and to develop a personal response to the fundamental questions of life.
- Develop an understanding of religious traditions and to appreciate the cultural differences in Britain today incorporating British Values
- Develop investigative and research skills and to enable them to make reasoned judgements about religious issues
- Have respect for other peoples' views and to celebrate the diversity in society.

2. The legal position of religious education

Our school curriculum for RE meets the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act (ERA). The ERA stipulates that RE is compulsory for all children, including those in the reception class who are less than 5 years old. The ERA allows parents to withdraw their child from RE classes if they so wish, although this should only be done once the parents have given written notice to the school governors. The ERA also allows teachers to refuse to teach RE, but only after they have notified the governors also. The RE curriculum forms an important part of our school's spiritual, moral and social teaching. (See Policy for Spiritual, Moral Social and Cultural understanding). It also promotes education for Citizenship. Our curriculum is based on Norfolk LA's Agreed Syllabus 2012 and meets all its requirements

3. Teaching and learning style

The Norfolk Agreed Syllabus 2012 advocates: "a broad understanding of enquiry-based learning which encompasses an environment in which learning is driven by a process of enquiry owned by the children." Each unit is based around a key question. Our teaching and learning style in RE is based on the key principle that good teaching in RE allows children both to learn about religious traditions and to reflect on what the religious ideas and concepts mean to them. We encourage children to think about their own views and values in relation to the themes and topics studied in the RE curriculum. We organise visits to local places of worship and invite representatives of local religious groups to come into school and talk to the children.

4. Links with other subjects

RE has links with English, History, Geography and Art and is related to the way in which Wicklewood Primary School and Nursery organises its collective worship. There are also opportunities for Equal Opportunities, Citizenship, PSHE and Ethnic Diversity. This policy directly links/relates to the Teaching and Learning Policy and SEN Information Report.

5. Resources

We keep resources in a central store where there is a box of artefacts for each major religion. We also have library books, software and Bibles to support the children's individual research.

This policy directly links/relates to the Teaching and Learning Policy, SEN Information Report and English Policy.

