

St. Michael's Woolmer Green School



Policy for Religious Education

Religious Education occupies a special place in this school's curriculum. As this is a Voluntary Aided School the RE curriculum is required by law to be determined by the Governors.

We believe that a church school should positively set standards of behaviour and morality which are informed by Christ's teachings and not merely accept or reflect current moral and social standards. RE involves both specific areas of learning and the creation of an overall ethos for the school.

Aims

To teach Religious Education so that children may

- acquire a knowledge and understanding of the origins, content and development of the Christian religion
- understand the importance of Christianity and its influence on the lives of individuals
- understand the values, attitudes and lifestyles that a Christian faith demands and its effect on the relationships and responsibilities in the family, among friends, in the school and in the wider community
- gain some comparative knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the beliefs and religious practices of others
- develop a sense of individual spirituality – distinctively Christian

Objectives

Foundation Stage

By the end of the Foundation Stage pupils should:

- be able to recognise and share enjoyment of special religious occasions
- be able to retell parts of the Christian stories such as the Christmas and Easter stories and the creation of the world
- recognise features of belonging and understand that belonging is important in their own lives
- be curious in the natural world
- recognise people who show care and concern and recognise how they themselves show care and concern
- recognise places of importance for religious people and say what places are important in their own lives
- begin to know about their own cultures and beliefs and those of other people

Key Stage One

By the end of Key Stage 1 pupils should be able:

- to become increasingly aware of religious ideas, experiences and forms of festival and worship especially those which emphasise the Christian tradition
- to have an enquiring, reflective and respectful attitude towards the natural world
- to develop a sensitivity towards others and to form relationships based on love, sympathy, forgiveness, respect and consideration
- to begin to acquire a basic knowledge and awareness of world religions.

Key Stage Two

By the end of Key Stage 2 pupils should be able:

- to acquire knowledge of the life and teaching of Jesus
- to understand the basic structure of the Bible and become familiar with key personalities in the Bible stories
- to explore the nature of Christian worship and use of signs and symbols in expressing feelings and beliefs
- to begin to acquire a basic knowledge and understanding of certain world religions and the relevance to personal, moral and social issues
- to reflect upon and explain with reasons their own and other people's views about ultimate questions.

Experiences

It is important to give children a range of experiences which will help their religious understanding. According to the age of the children these may include:

- visits to and/or studies of places of worship
- meeting with other Christians or Church leaders to hear about their faith
- reading the Bible and other Christian writings
- the presentation of Biblical stories and other religious stories in a variety of ways
- participation in celebrations relating to major Christian festivals both in church and in school
- learning about the practices and beliefs of those of other faiths
- looking at life from the perspective of others
- visits from members of other major world religions
- cross curricular links where appropriate
- a wide range of learning opportunities.

Knowledge

Children will acquire religious understanding, skills and attitudes mainly through specific teaching based on the scheme of work. When appropriate opportunities arise RE may be taught through topic work or other curriculum links.