

## WOULDHAM ALL SAINTS CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

#### Legal Requirements:

- ✿ The Governing Body of Wouldham School is responsible for ensuring that Religious Education is provided for all pupils not withdrawn by parents on ground of conscience, as stipulated by the 1988 Education Reform Act and DFE circular 1/94. The main requirements of the law are that:
- ✿ Religious education is not part of the National Curriculum but the curriculum for every maintained school must include provision for religious education.
- ✿ Religious education for most, but not all pupils, is determined by the Kent Agreed Syllabus.
- ✿ Religious education must be provided for all registered pupils in maintained schools including those in the Foundation Stage.

#### Right to withdraw:

- ✿ Parents have the right to withdraw their children from religious education, however, we hope that all will participate. Any parent wishing to withdraw their child will need to make an appointment to first discuss their thoughts with the headteacher. This must be followed up with a formal written request.
- ✿ Teachers in community, foundation and voluntary controlled schools have the right to withdraw from teaching religious education.

#### Aims:

Religious Education in Wouldham All Saints Church of England Primary School seeks to:

- ✿ Enable pupils to encounter Christianity as the religion that shaped British culture and heritage and influences the lives of millions of people today.
- ✿ Enable pupils to learn about the other major religions, their impact on culture and politics, art and history, and on the lives of their adherents.
- ✿ Develop understanding of religious faith as the search for and expression of truth
- ✿ Contribute to the development of pupils' own spiritual/philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own faith and beliefs.
- ✿ Consider theological thinking at an age appropriate level.

#### Strategy of Achievement of Aims:

The content of Religious Education has been planned in advance to give a progressive experience to all children. Pupils will use the Kent agreed syllabus for RE and follow the schemes of work developed by Rochester Diocese (adapted as necessary) and will be taught in single year groups (as long as this is financially possible).

#### Attainment Targets:

There are two attainment targets in the Kent Agreed syllabus:

- ✿ to learn about religion
- ✿ to learn from religion

The first of these objectives refers to knowledge and understanding of religions. The second makes this knowledge relevant to the children and encourages them to think for themselves. We believe the most

important element is 'learning from religion' and will make sure every lesson has a significant amount of this focus to include assessment. Each lesson should be a question that make the pupils think!

Children will be assessed throughout the year with 'levels' collected at least twice so that progress in year and progress between years can be measured. All children are expected to make two levels of progress across a key stage.

### Approach

- ✿ In both Key Stages RE is taught in blocks to respect the integrity of each religion and to prevent confusion. As appropriate, elements of the religions are compared, most notably with Christianity. This is an important feature of children's work. Care is taken to ensure progression and development of ideas in the RE syllabus.
- ✿ A variety of teaching strategies and resources are used in RE to ensure that lessons are as interesting and exciting as possible and appropriate to the age of the children. For the very young this will be achieved by respecting their natural ways of learning through senses, exploration, conversation and play. Older children will investigate, evaluate and discuss before recording in writing, drawing, modelling or acting. Resources include books, posters, ICT including web-based material and audio/video. We invite visitors into school when appropriate and we will aim to have RE related visits to other places (eg synagogue, different churches, cathedral etc)
- ✿ Where possible and relevant we will make links to the school's explicit Christian values which are the fruits of the spirit detailed in Galatians 5 : 22. These need to be made relevant to the RE teaching and practical application in the day to day lives of the school family.

### Equal Opportunities

We value the opinions, beliefs and practices of all people, and handle with sensitivity minority groups or opinions. We work hard to ensure all pupils are able to access the RE curriculum and are enabled to make progress in their achievements.

### ***RE***