

Woodham Walter C of E Primary School



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY



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1
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'As a family we grow, learn and flourish together'

Our Vision

At Woodham Walter Church of England Primary School, our welcoming Christian community creates independent, resilient and articulate lifelong learners, who have the confidence to achieve personal excellence for themselves and for the Glory of God. As a family we grow, learn and flourish together.

Just like a garden needs sunshine, water, and care to grow, we need to support each other to learn and flourish in our school community. Here at Woodham Walter, we believe in knowing one another, valuing each other, and celebrating our achievements. In adopting the Bible verse "I have come that you may have life in all its fullness", pupils and staff are called to a full life in mind, body, heart and spirit. Life in all its fullness is about living a varied and full life full of learning, growing, helping, reward, joy, excitement and caring for each other. It resonates deeply with our aspirations for our pupils to experience "life to the full" during their time at Woodham Walter and beyond.

To achieve our school vision, we have a steadfast commitment to our core values of ***kindness, respect and honesty***. Through them we aspire to enrich the lives of others, enabling every individual to grow, learn and flourish together so that they may experience "life to the full".

Religious Education (RE) Intent Statement

High quality RE is an essential part of a rich and broad education and is the entitlement of every pupil. RE makes a distinctive contribution to the school curriculum by developing pupils' knowledge and understanding of religion, religious beliefs, practices, language and traditions and their influence on individuals, communities, societies and cultures. It supports the thoughtful and reflective development of pupils' own beliefs and values. It enables pupils to consider and respond to a range of important questions related to their own spiritual development, the development of values and attitudes and fundamental questions concerning the meaning and purpose of life. RE equips pupils for life by helping them to engage in balanced and informed conversations about religion and belief.

Christian Values

As a church school, the teaching of Christianity is rooted in the person and work of Jesus Christ within the wider context of the story of God's relationship with humanity as set out in the Bible. In addition, the learning about a range of religions and worldviews fosters respect and understanding of the beliefs of others.

Our RE curriculum both supports and provides our children with a safe environment where they feel confident to share their ideas, opinions and beliefs and through open discussion, encourages children to widen their experiences and their understanding of their own role within the school community and the wider world.

Aims

Through our RE teaching we enable pupils:

- to know about and understand Christianity as a diverse global living faith through the exploration of core beliefs using an approach that critically engages with biblical texts
- to gain knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews appreciating diversity, continuity and change with the religions and worldviews being studied
- to engage with challenging questions of meaning and purpose raised by human existence and experience
- to recognise the concept of religions and its continuing influence on Britain's cultural heritage and in the lives of individuals and societies in different times, cultures and places
- to explore their own religious, spiritual and philosophical ways of living, believing and thinking

RE at Woodham Walter CofE Primary enhances pupils':

- awareness and understanding of religions and beliefs, teachings, practices and forms of expression
- ability to reflect on, consider, analyse, interpret and evaluate issues of truth, belief, faith and ethics and to communicate their responses.

RE at Woodham Walter CofE offers opportunities for personal reflection and spiritual development.

RE Lessons

RE is taught weekly at Woodham Walter and is treated as a core academic subject. It is delivered in an objective, critical, and pluralistic way, encouraging pupils to explore various religions and worldviews through philosophy, as well as the human and social sciences.

At Woodham Walter our RE curriculum follows an enquiry-based approach, with lessons planned to foster curiosity and critical thinking. Teachers develop their medium-term plans in line with the Essex Agreed Syllabus 2022, underpinned and supported by NATRE and *Understanding Christianity*. This ensures a comprehensive and engaging learning experience for all pupils.

The statutory basis of the agreed syllabus

RE is, by law, locally determined. Woodham Walter CofE follows the Essex Agreed Syllabus 2022 for RE. It is a requirement on schools and governing bodies to ensure that all children gain their statutory entitlement to RE through all years of compulsory education (Education Act 1988). The requirement to teach RE does not apply to nursery classes but does to those of statutory school age.

Assessment and Recording in RE

Pupils' progress in RE is based on the expected outcomes outlined in the Essex Agreed Syllabus 2022 for RE. We track individual progress against the outcomes for each unit using a RAG rating for each child. This is based on written evidence and contributions from the child made during lessons. Progress in RE is reported annually to parents and has a prominent position in their end of year report.

Right of Withdrawal from RE

The 1944 Education Act established the right of withdrawal of pupils from RE and this right remains unchanged. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from RE and pupils aged over 18 have the right to withdraw themselves from RE. As RE is central to the life and identity of Church of England schools, the Headteacher will meet with parents/carers to discuss any reasons they might have for exercising this right.

Review

This policy will be reviewed annually.