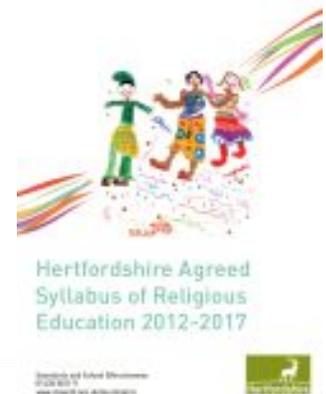


Religious Education

RE Policy Review

- * In our school we follow the Hertfordshire Agreed Syllabus – this includes the study of Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism, Judaism, and Buddhism.
- * The Education Act 1996 requires that all locally agreed syllabuses of RE are reviewed every five years. The current scheme was reviewed in 2012.
- * Within the syllabus there are two attainment targets, Learning about Religion and Learning from Religion
- * There are currently 8 levels of attainment, but this will be reviewed to bring it in line with Government policy.
- * Suggestions are made on the Hertfordshire Grid for Learning for lessons and resources to use, such as <http://www.bl.uk/learning/cult/sacred/stories/>
- * Christianity units from the Diocese of St Albans are used to supplement the teaching of Christianity, starting in Year 3 with “**Being inspired: what’s that?**” and working towards **Sharing own spiritual ideas** in Year 6.
- * Our collective worship and whole school events seek to develop further the children’s understanding of Christianity and the role of faith in daily life.



RE Monitoring Activities

- * The work scrutiny showed that there is clear progression across the key stage and the children engage in a wide range of learning opportunities.
- * RE is preparing our pupils for life in modern Britain.
- * The children have opportunities to reflect and explore their own spiritual awareness
- * The children talk with high regard for RE and commented how they enjoyed it as being ‘different’ from other subjects.
- * We need to make sure we consistently focus on the learning objective in RE so that the children are aware of their learning journey. This was found to be particularly true when learning about Christianity. When discussed by the teaching staff, we identified that Christianity is such an intrinsic part of what we do in all of our school life that we sometimes do not draw the children’s attention specifically to this being Christianity at work. We recognised that the children would believe that this was what all schools were like and we needed to make it clear where our inspiration comes from!
- * We need to make the children more aware of how to improve in RE through “next steps”, although the children spoke with relief at not having to complete these in RE.
- * To develop RE further we need to organise trips and visitors – this is being worked on through the RE Quality Award

Collective Worship

Collective Worship Policy

- * “We understand worship to be a special act or occasion where all members of the school community come together in fellowship to celebrate and give thanks. We confirm our identity and acknowledge when we make mistakes. We reflect and develop a sense of the other, asking questions to help us to understand the relationship of the Trinity. We consider how Jesus is alive today. “
- * A termly Collective Worship Plan is written by the Collective Worship Working Party, which includes a member of the Tring Team Ministry, a member of the school’s leadership team and children from Year 6. We use the Diocesan themes as a guide, linking the Collective Worship Plan closely to the Church of England calendar and the teaching of Christian values. This plan is also used to structure the hymns sung and the music played for entrance to and exit from collective worship. We observe the festivals and mark the events of the Christian calendar.
- * We have developed our collective worship over recent years to develop the children’s understanding of communion and the communion service. This year we used the preparation for communion classes as a guide for our Lent worship. This led to the children and staff receiving a blessing at the end of term service on Maundy service.

Monitoring Collective Worship

- * Daily records are kept by a group of Year 6 children to monitor the collective worship that has taken place and the materials that were used.
- * Teachers record their own collective worship plans, which are reviewed to develop our collective worship.
- * Pupil voice activities inform future planning – these take place anecdotally and in interviews.
- * When we reviewed our Easter celebrations we were able to identify a number of ways in which our collective worship has developed over the past two years, such as the use of confession prayers and our school creed.
- * When we reviewed our Christmas collective worship we recognised that the plan was often difficult to implement due to the timing of other events. Consequently, we will be holding an evening carol concert in the last week of term instead of the nativity play. This will put less pressure on rehearsal time in school and allow for a more reflective celebration, which will demonstrate progression in our collective worship. Year 5 children will take a lead in the service.
- * We would like our collective worship to take place outside! This is commented on frequently by the children – the development of an outside seating area for the school would enable this to happen. Our next outdoor collective worship is planned for 3rd June.

Spirituality Development Policy

Spiritual Development Policy

- * Spiritual development is an important aspect of Bishop Wood C of E Junior School, relating to our aims and ethos, underpinning all activities and relationships.
- * Spiritual development is not limited to RE and Collective Worship. There needs to be an awareness of spiritual development in the whole curriculum.
- * Spirituality is about wholeness. It is developed through: Love and affection; security; new experiences; praise and recognition; participation and responsibility.

The aims of spiritual development are:

- * To develop the skill of concentrating on the present moment
- * To promote awareness of and enjoyment in using imaginative potential
- * To encourage quiet reflection during lessons and in collective worship
- * To develop self confidence in expressing inner thoughts
- * To develop an inner calm
- * To take opportunities to recognise beauty, truth and goodness
- * To emphasise and appreciate loving relationships
- * To develop the confidence to try new activities and reflect upon them
- * To appreciate when moments of wonder and reverence present themselves.



Our School Creed

We believe in the freedom of all people to follow their dreams. This freedom comes from the love we are given and show to one another. Through this love we accept all people just as they are and respect the choices that they make. We will treat each person equally. We will not judge others. We will listen, just as we need to be listened to. We will work hard to become the best we can be, as we expect others to work hard so that we can learn together. Our world should be a safe place for everyone so that all people can join together in families and with friends to grow together in love.

