

Westbridge Primary School

**RE and Collective Worship
Policy**

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Review Date: February 2019

Aims and objectives of religious education

At Westbridge, we are passionate about education and the power it has to improve pupil's life chances. As such, we have high aspirations and ambitions for the future and a commitment to providing the opportunity for every child to fulfil his or her full potential. Everything that we do is underpinned by our broad Christian ethos of Grace, Love and Fellowship and our school motto of the 4Ps, e.g. Perseverance, Pride, Positivity and Potential.

Religious education enables children to investigate and reflect on fundamental questions asked by people. We develop the children's knowledge and understanding of the major world faiths. We enable children to develop a sound knowledge, not only of Christianity, but also of other world religions (including non-religious beliefs), especially those that are the main faiths of children and staff within our school. 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 aim of religious education is to support children to:

- Develop an awareness of spiritual and moral issues in life experiences
- Develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other major world religions and value systems found in Britain
- Reflect on what it means to be committed to a religious tradition
- 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
- 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

The legal position of religious education

The religious education curriculum forms an important part of our school's spiritual, moral and social teaching. It also promotes education for citizenship. Our school RE curriculum is based on SACRE and the Wandsworth agreed syllabus and it meets all the requirements set out in that document. RE forms a statutory part of the National Curriculum. However, there are no requirements on when or how to teach the subject.

Teaching and learning

We base our teaching and learning style in RE 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. Our teaching enables children to extend their own sense of values and promotes their spiritual growth and development. We encourage children to think about their own views and values in relation to the themes and topics studied in the RE curriculum.

Our teaching and learning styles in RE enable children to build on their own experiences and extend their knowledge and understanding of religious traditions. We aim to invite people of different faiths or parents into school to talk to the children about special events / celebrations within their religion.

Curriculum planning for religious education

We plan our religious education curriculum in accordance with the Wandsworth Agreed Syllabus. We ensure that the topics studied in religious education build upon prior learning. We offer opportunities for children of all abilities to develop their skills and knowledge in each unit, and we ensure that the planned progression built into the scheme of work offers the children an increasing challenge as they move through the school. We recognise the fact that all classes in our school have children of widely differing abilities, and so we provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child. We achieve this through teachers differentiating the work and the level of support given.

Background to collective worship

The collective worship at our school pays due regard to the legal and educational requirements and is consistent with the guidelines offered by the Wandsworth SACRE. Collective worship takes place every day for all pupils (unless withdrawn on grounds of conscience by their parent).

The majority of acts of collective worship over any given term are mainly of a Christian character, as consistent with legal requirements. Specific reference is made in some acts of collective worship to the special status that Christians give to Jesus Christ. However, it is not assumed that all present give such special status to him.

Definition of collective worship

Collective worship is a time set aside from other aspects of school life, when the school community is provided with an opportunity to learn and reflect on the variety of issues of spiritual, moral, ethical and religious significance.

Worship defined in this way draws on literature, music, drama, art and other sources of inspiration and reflection for pupils and staff whose religious and cultural backgrounds are of any faith or none. In this way, collective worship is inclusive not exclusive.

Aims of collective worship

Collective worship is an educational opportunity, which aims to develop the whole child spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually and this is reflected in our worship.

We use collective worship time to encourage pupils to:

- Worship as appropriate to their ages, aptitudes, family and faith backgrounds
- Consider issues of spiritual, moral, social and cultural concern
- Explore their own beliefs/non-belief and listen to and learn from the beliefs of others
- Develop themselves as people, reflecting on the non-physical (the spiritual) side of their nature
- Develop a sense of belonging and community spirit - in our school and the wider community - promoting a common ethos throughout our school
- Reinforce positive attitudes and values such as hard work, doing the best we can, valuing others, recognising the talents of all, etc.
- Participate in and respond to acts of collective worship in positive ways

Early Years Foundation Stage

We teach religious education to all children in the school, including those in the EYFS. In Reception and Nursery classes, we relate the religious education aspects of the children's work to the objectives set out in Development Matters which underpin the curriculum planning for children aged three to five.

Assessment and recording

Work should be recorded in books and any photographs that are taken of work or visits should be stored on the school system in the appropriate RE folders. Displays of the work are also valued. Topic maps and KWL grids are used to assess prior knowledge and each child's progress over the topic.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation and review

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring the daily collective worship which will be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. In this school we combine our acts of collective worship with assembly (class, key stage, whole school), helping to ensure that worship takes place within a broad educational framework. A copy of the collective worship/assembly rota is displayed Termly in the staff room. Staff leading worship can plan around the themes of religious festivals, known national and international events, aspects taken from the school calendar and our school ethos of Love, Grace and Fellowship.

The school will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

Appendix 1

Westbridge Primary School

RE Curriculum Overview

| | Autumn 1 | Autumn 2 | Spring 1 | Spring 2 | Summer 1 | Summer 2 |
|--------|---|--------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Year 1 | Special Days | Special Places | Learning from Stories | Special Food | The importance of water | Our World – caring for new life |
| Year 2 | Special Days | Special Places | Learning from Stories | Special Food | The importance of water | Our World – caring for new life |
| Year 3 | Signs and symbols | Festivals of Light | Belief and Practice - Christianity | Belief and Practice - Hinduism | Religious Buildings | Seeds of unity |
| Year 4 | Spirituality through art | Festivals of Light | Belief and Practice - Christianity | Belief and Practice - Islam | Moral dilemmas | Initiating practices |
| Year 5 | Rules for living | Festivals of Light | Belief and Practice - Christianity | Belief and Practice - Judaism | Pilgrimage | History of belief in the UK |
| Year 6 | Special Leaders (link with Black History Month) | Festivals of Light | Belief and Practice - Christianity | Belief and Practice - Sikhism | Beliefs regarding death | Prayer meditation and cultivating the inner life |