



## **Wolborough C of E Nursery and Primary School**

### **POLICY FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND WORSHIP**

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#### **1.0 RATIONALE**

Wolborough is a voluntary aided Church of England primary school and the Christian ethos forms the foundation of religious education and worship in the school. It is recognised that our main aim is not to act as missionaries, striving to make converts, but rather to deepen the faith of those families who already nurture their children in Christ and to demonstrate Christian values to those without faith. All children need to develop their spirituality as an important dimension of being a human, and as an Aided Church School this is grounded in Christian teaching and our foundation deed. A general Christian approach that takes into account denominational difference is gradually built upon as the children progress through their learning journey.

We recognise that children of faiths other than Christianity attend our school and that we are preparing children to grow up in a multi-faith and ethnically diverse world. Consequently we believe it is important that children learn about other faiths and those children from a different cultural, religious or ethnic background are encouraged to value and be confident in their own beliefs and traditions.

#### **2.0 PURPOSES**

Our policy aims are to:

- Develop a child's spirituality by encouraging a reflective approach to themselves and their world;
- Nurture children in a caring Christian environment which provides opportunities for reflecting on their own life experiences;
- Ensure children gain increasing familiarity with the Bible and to understand its structure and place within contemporary Christianity;
- Lead children to an understanding of the value of worship and begin to recognise and appreciate its formal expression;
- Give children an understanding of the major festivals of the Christian year and begin to understand their significance;
- Develop a child's appreciation of what it means to be a member of a faith community and respect for faiths other than Christianity;

- Encourage children to see the world as God's creation and understand that we need to look after it and its resources;
- Help children to begin to understand the concept of redemption;
- Help children to begin to appreciate the value of prayer;
- Develop strong links with the Anglican Churches in the town in the first instance, and subsequently with other denominations; and,
- To teach children about the structure and organisation of the Church, both as a place and as a living body.

### **3.0 ENTITLEMENT**

All children, regardless of sex, disability, faith or ethnicity should have full entitlement to the RE (Religious Education) curriculum and to participate in school worship. The parental right of withdrawing their children from these aspects of school life are stated in the school prospectus. See Appendix 1

### **4.0 BROAD GUIDELINES FOR TEACHING OF THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CURRICULUM**

- The teaching of RE should go in step with a child's development – i.e. starting with the child and his immediate world, and moving outwards with increasing maturity.
- RE should be taught recognisably for 40 hours a year at Key Stage 1 and 45 hours at Key Stage 2.
- RE is contained within the Knowledge and Understanding of the World at Foundation stage, becoming more distinct as the children progress through Key Stages 1 and 2. There should be a suitable balance between, on the one hand children expressing their own thoughts and understanding through speaking, questioning and listening, and on the other hand, recording what they have learned.
- The School's curriculum is based on the Exeter Diocesan syllabus supplemented by the Devon Agreed Syllabus for Religion Education 2014.

### **5.0 BROAD GUIDELINES FOR WORSHIP**

- Each school day will incorporate an act of Christian worship in either class or whole school context. The act of worship will have a spiritual dimension and a time for reflection linked to God, drawn together by prayer;
- Grace in the form of prayer is said before lunch and the day will close with prayer
- There shall be at least once a term a collective act of worship for the whole school at a Christian church in Newton Abbot, which may include a celebration of a saint's day or other Christian festival.

## **6.0 LINKS WITH OTHER AREAS OF THE CURRICULUM**

The school aims to embrace a theocentric view of the world which means that opportunities for RE and worship should occur throughout the curriculum.

## **7.0 LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT**

### 7.1 Staff development and training opportunities

RE has a monitoring day and staff meeting feedback allocated to it as part of the two year monitoring cycle laid down in the Curriculum Development Plan. These days, along with conversations with teachers and lesson observations form the subject co-ordinator's basis of identifying staff development needs that are then built into the school's staff development programme. RE is monitored by the RE coordinator and Head teacher each term. Any relevant feedback from such monitoring must then be included in a curriculum development plan. All staff attending training are expected to share the useful points of the course with the rest of the staff at staff meetings. They are also required to fill in an In-Service training record.

7.2 The subject leaders should also be responsible for maintaining the RE section of the Teachers' Resource Room using the budget allocated for the purchase of RE resources and equipment.

### 7.3 Leadership and Management Roles

Subject leaders are responsible to the Head teacher for the direction of the subject across the school. Time is allocated for them to monitor standards and quality across the school. Subject leaders are expected to keep the curriculum under review and keep the Head teacher informed about changes to requirements at the national and local levels. The subject leaders need to should keep the link governor(s) informed about relevant developments.

### 7.4 How the subject is monitored and evaluated

All teachers are responsible for monitoring standards but the subject leader, under the direction of the Head teacher, takes a lead in this.

### 7.5 Monitoring activities are planned across the year

In summary they are these should include:

- staff meetings to analyse work and evaluate standards
- the subject leader to analysing teacher's planning files and monitoring the coverage and balance of the curriculum planned
- subject leader to use a monitoring day period each year to undertake lesson observations.
- The subject leader to update the link governor of any changes to the master policy

- The subject leader to monitor ongoing displays and work in hand in the classrooms
- the subject leader to discussing with or preparing a short summary for the link governor(s) after the biannual monitoring day the period of monitoring referred to above
- The Head teacher to monitor annual reports to parents

The subject leader is should be responsible for annually completing an action plan to be included in the Curriculum Development Plan, outlining action what is to be taken to maintain and improve standards.

## **8.0 CONCLUSION**

Religious education and worship are core elements of the curriculum and the life of the school. and They must be kept under review annually.

## **9.0 REVIEW**

This Policy will be reviewed annually by the Curriculum Committee of the Governors.

Reviewed July 2016