



'We are all different, which is great because we are all unique. Without diversity, life would be very boring.'
(Catherine Pulsifer)

Intent

At Woodhall, we believe that for children to understand the world around them, they need to learn from and about religion. Religious Education supports children's spiritual, social, moral and cultural development. Many of our children have limited experiences of religion and different cultures. Through Religious Education, pupils develop their knowledge of the world faiths, and their understanding and awareness of the beliefs, values and traditions of other individuals, societies, communities and cultures. It is our role to ensure pupils are being inquisitive by asking questions about the world around them and providing high quality experiences. We aim to promote respect and open-mindedness towards those with other faiths and beliefs. Children should be able to develop their sense of identity and belonging through self-awareness and reflection.

We follow the two key aims for Religious Education:

Sources of Wisdom and their Impact:

- Know, understand and explore the significance and impact of sacred texts, other sources of wisdom and ways of expressing meaning;
- Express ideas and insights about the nature of beliefs, values and practices and their impact upon the identity of individuals and communities;
- Recognise and explore the diversity which exists within and between religious traditions.

Personal and Critical Responses:

- Express with increasing discernment their personal reflections, critical responses and connections to faith and belief enquiring into philosophical, moral and ethical issues.
- Engage with the questions and answers offered by religions and world views concerning ultimate questions and human responsibility.
- Develop the skills required to engage with others in dialogue and to co-operate in society with respect and compassion.

By the time our children leave Woodhall, we aim to:

- Develop a deep knowledge and understanding of major world religions and world views which not only provides a solid foundation from which to study RE at secondary school and beyond, but also can also be transferred and applied to their wider learning and lives.
- Enable children to explore the views, opinions and connection they have with people whose world view differs from their own and to value the things that people have in common as well as the things that are different about their beliefs and ideas.
- Give children the ability to express and communicate their own thoughts, opinions and ideas linked to RE.
- Be able to link the study of religion and belief to personal reflections on meaning and purpose.

Implementation

We follow the Herts Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education which ensures coverage of the major religions and for progression between year groups. This is taught through either a weekly lesson or a block of lessons depending upon how the R.E. topic can be integrated into the class' curriculum topic.

The curriculum is split into eight key areas, each of which are covered in each Key Stage:

- ***Justice and Fairness***
- ***Beliefs and Practices***
- ***Sources of Wisdom***
- ***Symbols and Actions***
- ***Prayer, Worship and Reflection***
- ***Identity and belonging***
- ***Ultimate Questions***
- ***Human Responsibility and Values.***

Within these curriculum areas, every year group learns a different aspect of Christian life. By the time children leave Key Stage Two, they have gained an understanding of each of the world's main religions.

In the Early Years Foundation Stage, children use their imagination and curiosity to develop their appreciation of and wonder at the world in which they live. Children have a variety of rich experiences, including sharing special stories, places and objects. The R.E. curriculum is taught through a mixture of adult led and child-initiated activities.

Through regular assemblies, the children experience a range of stories and music from a range of cultures and religions. This enables them to reflect on deeper spiritual, moral, social and cultural values of religions and beliefs. Children gain first-hand understanding through visitors such as representatives from the local churches. In addition to this, children visit religious building such as a church or monastery. Throughout the year, children may participate in whole school celebrations for different religious festivals, such as Diwali.

Impact

Children at Woodhall School enjoy learning about other religions and cultures. We aim for the children to leave us with a greater understanding of themselves and others, to prepare them for the opportunities, challenges and responsibilities of living in a rapidly changing, multicultural world.

Each term, the subject leader completes a work scrutiny and learning walk to monitor progress in Religious Education. Children's views about their learning in R.E. are sought each term. The strengths and areas for development identified by these are fed back to each teacher. Actions are then identified for each teacher which then become the focus of subsequent monitoring.

Standards in Religious Education are reported termly to the governors' Humanities Curriculum Working Party.

Relevant Website Links:

School Development Plan (parents/carers' version): <https://woodhall.herts.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Woodhall-School-Development-Plan-2022-2023-Parents-Version-1.pdf>

Curriculum (subject ladders/curriculum overviews): <https://woodhall.herts.sch.uk/curriculum>

Previous Subject Leader: Naomi Jones

New Subject Leads: SLT

To Be Reviewed: June 2023 (When New Locally Agreed Syllabus is due)