

R.E. and Collective Worship Policy



Review Date: Autumn 2023

Next Review Date: Autumn 2024

At Charlwood Village Primary School we believe that Religious Education is the most effective way not only to teach different world faiths but also British Values and Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development. As a Community School we follow the Surrey Agreed Syllabus developed by SACRE.

Our policy recognises the entitlement of parents to withdraw their child from the teaching of R.E. and the taking part in Collective Worship, and of the teacher entitlement to choose not to be involved professionally in either process.

Aims

Through R.E. we aim to enable pupils to begin to learn about religions by acquiring and developing knowledge and understanding through:

- Encountering and learning the names of some of the important places and objects connected with the religions studied, and becoming familiar with stories about key people
- Learning about some ideas and practices associated with festivals, celebrations and events
- Using stories and symbols
- Where possible, meeting people who belong to the religious community being studied
- Comparing religions, identifying their similarities and differences

We also encourage pupils to learn from religion by developing positive attitudes towards others and enhancing their own spiritual and moral development through:

- Responding to stories from different religious traditions
- Realising that stories from religious traditions often deal with feelings similar to their own
- Talking and thinking about puzzling questions which arise in life
- Talking about things that matter to them and listening to what others have to say
- Exploring the sense of belonging to a community
- Exploring the difference between right and wrong, fair and unfair
- Expressing themselves creatively in art, dance and drama etc.
- Using times of quiet to reflect on a story or other experience
- Responding to the wonder and beauty of the natural world

Curriculum

All year groups follow the Surrey Agreed Syllabus.

In the Early Years Foundation Stage this is focused on 3 core concepts: belonging, specialness and celebration.

These concepts are explored through six questions:

- Who am I, and where do I belong?
- Why do we have celebrations
- What makes a place special?
- What makes something special?
- What can we learn from stories?
- What makes our world wonderful?

In Key Stage 1 the compulsory units and additional study units introduce the following beliefs:

- Christianity
- Islam
- Judaism
- Non-religious world views

The unit questions still cover the key concepts; specialness, belonging and celebration. The coverage is heavily weighted towards Christianity.

In Key Stage 2 the units follow the key concepts belonging, specialness and celebration and the following beliefs are explored:

- Christianity
- Islam
- Judaism
- Non-religious world views
- Hinduism
- Sikhism
- Buddhism

The content continues to be heavily weighted to Christianity. Each unit builds on from each other so that by the time pupils leave primary school they have a good understanding of the different faiths and how they compare in preparation for Key Stage 3.

The curriculum also focuses on learning about the different religions as well as learning from the different religions. There are opportunities for pupils to reflect and consider their own thoughts, beliefs and questions about the world around them.

Resources

Resources for the different faiths can be found in the labelled faith resource boxes which are kept in Woodpecker Classroom. Online resources such as BBC RE Clips are also used to support RE lessons.

Collective Worship

Assembly normally begins with music which children are encouraged to listen to and to sit quietly with their own thoughts. The format may vary but may include stories and discussion, opportunities for the children to think about their own feelings and needs as well as those of others. Assembly usually finishes with music and the children are expected to return to their classrooms quietly.

Through assemblies we try to offer children opportunities to:

- Celebrate together
- Reflect together
- Build a sense of community and togetherness
- Encourage spiritual growth
- Share common values
- Contribute to personal development
- Enrich personal responses
- Appreciate the value of themselves, each other and the world as a whole

We hold special assemblies at St Nicholas Church for the Christmas Carol Service and Easter to which the pupil's families are invited. Details of assembly themes can be found on the school website.