

NEWBOLD SCHOOL

Religious Education Policy

Reviewed December, 2021 by Mrs J Crissey

Ratified by Newbold School Board of Governors January 2022

1. The Aim of Religious Education

As a Christian school, the aim of religious education at Newbold School is to help children gain a sound understanding of Christianity as a way of life and to also learn about the beliefs and practices of other religions and what these mean to the people who practise them. Our intention is to teach our children to respect those who have lifestyles, religions and beliefs different from their own and to model their behaviour on the principle teachings of Christian ethics (kindness, consideration, charity, love etc...).

2. Objectives

- To develop children's use of skills that may help them to respond to religious ideas.
- To develop an understanding, through scripture, of how lives were directed by spiritual experiences in the past, and how God can have an influence on our lives today.
- To develop an awareness that God loves us and that we respond to His love by committing ourselves to Him and dedicating ourselves to the service of others.
- To encourage children to think for themselves and to rationalise their beliefs as they grow and mature.

3. How we teach Religious Education

We use a variety of teaching methods based on the Seventh-day Adventist *Encounter* curriculum (a Christian curriculum):

- Through active worship sessions, led by teachers, church pastors, visiting speakers and class presentations in our assembly hall or in classrooms.
- Through class-based activities, which may sometimes, but not always, be recorded in RE books or worksheets.
- Through music, drama, storytelling and art.
- Through visits to museums and places of worship.
- Through the integration of spiritual beliefs and values within cross-curricular themes and topics.
- through exploration of several religions that are different from Christianity - e.g. Islam, Bhudhism, Jewdiasm, Hinduism,

Foundation Stage

Children share simple stories from the Bible that relate to early understanding, together with songs and rhymes that assist in underlying values within these stories. Stories are often chosen to fit the ongoing classroom activities or pupil inspired themes for the term/period.

Children in our Foundation classes will also partake in whole school learning focused on other religions (e.g. Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Bhudhists etc...).

3.1

Key Stage 1

Children begin a more in-depth understanding of the lives of Bible characters, recognising the way spiritual values are portrayed within the life of Jesus and His disciples, and within the history of the Children of Israel. This is reinforced with discussions on ethical issues at a level the children can understand. Children are also introduced to other ways of worshiping at this level. The appropriate age-related lessons from *Encounter* curriculum will provide a framework through which they learn.

Children will also focus on a variety of different religions spread over the 2-year rolling programme, learning some of their practices, beliefs, celebrations and role playing some activities. Our children should gain a simple understanding of some foundation principles of each religion and how these differ from their own personal beliefs.

3.2

Key Stage 2

Further Bible stories continue, through the age-related *Encounter* programmes of study, expanding on earlier introductions, leading into more abstract areas of religious thought at a later stage of development. Children are further exposed to other world religions, noting similarities and differences with Christianity, and understanding the place of each in our own and world communities.

KS2 children will engage in studying other afore-mentioned religions, gaining knowledge of the practices, beliefs, rituals and celebrations during one block study week from each half term.

At both Key Stage 1 and 2 we are implementing and following the Encounter Adventist Curriculum for religious education as it is developed.

4. Collective Worship

Collective worship has an important part to play in the religious education of children at Newbold School. It should create a sense of awe and wonder, instil within the children a sense of peace and belonging, a knowledge that they are loved and secure, as well as a sense of self-worth. Collective worship should also provide a time to celebrate the various achievements of members of the school community, particularly through our Friday Achievement Assembly, where certificates are presented to children for noteworthy work, jobs, attitudes and behaviours noticed by their teachers throughout the week.