

NEWBOLD SCHOOL

Religious Education Policy

1. The Aim of Religious Education

The aim of religious education at Newbold School is to help children towards an understanding of and spiritual experience within the Christian setting, and to lead them to respect those who have different lifestyles, religions and beliefs. Implicit in this aim is that religious education should also aid in the child's moral development.

2. Objectives

- To develop children's use of those 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.

3. How we teach Religious Education

We use a variety of teaching methods based on the Seventh-Day Adventist *Encounter* 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, story telling and art.
- Through visits to museums and places of worship.
- Through the integration of spiritual beliefs and values within cross-curricular themes and topics.

3.1 Foundation Stage

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

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

3.2 **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 have one week in each half term where they focus on a variety of different religions, learning some of their practices, beliefs, celebrations and role playing some activities to help gain a good understanding.

3.3 **Key Stage 2**

Further Bible stories continue throughout the first part of the stage, through age-related *Encounter* curriculum programmes of study, expanding on earlier introductions, leading into more abstract areas of religious thought at the later stage of development. Children are further exposed to other world religions, specifically those of Jewish/Islamic origin, 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 aforementioned 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; offer pupils from the church and community the chance to explore and share their beliefs; it should instil within the children a sense of peace and belonging, a knowledge that they are loved and secure, as well as a deep 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 assemblies, where certificates are presented to children for noteworthy work, jobs, attitudes and behaviours noticed by their teachers throughout the week.

Date of this review: 23.07.2012 (Headteacher 2011 - 2013)
10.10.15

Signed : Mrs J Crissey (2013 - present)

Position: Headteacher