



Our Christian vision is underpinned by Jesus' example of love for all and is summarised in 1 Corinthians 16:14.

'Let all that you do be done in love.'

WE ASPIRE for all our children to be confident, happy and caring individuals, to love as Jesus shows us and to develop a love of learning, living responsibly in God's world.

Aims and objectives

Religious Education has a very high profile at Great Waltham CE Primary School and learning activities provide fully for the needs of all children. We believe that RE enables our children to develop religious literacy, the ability to hold informed and balanced conversations about religion and beliefs. It provokes challenging questions about the ultimate meaning and purpose of life, beliefs about God, the self and the nature of reality, issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human. It encourages our children to learn from different religions, beliefs, values and traditions while exploring their own beliefs and questions of meaning.

Aims

The aims of teaching Religious Education are:

- To offer a broad and balanced RE curriculum that provides a balance between the disciplines of Theology, Philosophy and Human and Social Sciences.
- To enable pupils to know about and understand Christianity as a living faith that influences the lives of people worldwide and as the religion that has most shaped British culture and heritage thus developing an understanding of religious traditions and to appreciate the cultural differences in Britain today;

- To enable our children to gain knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and world views, their impact on society, culture and the wider world, enabling them to express their ideas and insights.
- To enable our children to explore and develop their own religious, spiritual and philosophical convictions, so that they may reflect on their experiences and to develop a personal response to the fundamental questions of life;
- To have respect for other peoples' views and to celebrate the diversity in society.

Principles

By the end of year 6 children are able to:

- Give a theologically informed and thoughtful account of Christianity as a living and diverse faith.
- Show an informed and respectful attitude to religions and world views in their search for God and meaning.
- Engage in meaningful and informed dialogue with those of other faiths and those with no faith.
- Reflect critically and responsibly on their own spiritual, philosophical and ethical convictions.

Teaching and learning about Religions and World Views

We teach RE to all children with regard to their ability and aptitude. Each child is valued, respected and challenged regardless of ability, race, gender, religion, social background, culture or disability. RE forms part of our school curriculum policy to provide a broad and balanced education for all children.

We aim through our teaching

- To provide a course of Religious Education appropriate to the educational needs of all the children in our school, at their different stages of development.
- To contribute to the spiritual, social and moral development of the school as a caring community and the children as individuals.
- To assist and encourage experience of Christian life and worship.
- Through study of major world religions to encourage and understanding and appreciation of the rich diversity of religious belief and practice in society today.

We aim to encourage children in our school

- To grow in awareness of others through learning activities involving sharing and co-operation and to develop trust and respect for others.

- To formulate their own sense of purpose in life and to embark upon a personal search for a faith by which to live.
- To learn something of the religious experiences of others.
- To develop their own beliefs, values and ideals in the light of their experiences
- To develop respect for other people, their beliefs and their life-styles.
- To develop an enquiring attitude towards religion and to explore activities of prayer and worship.

Legal requirements

Within the Diocese of Chelmsford, RE must be taught in accordance with the Local Agreed Syllabus: Essex Agreed Syllabus 2022 A Religious Education for the Future.

RE is central to the life and identity of our school however, parents have the right to withdraw their children from RE under the 1944 Education Act if they so wish, although this should only be done once the parents have given written notice to the school governors.

Planning and Assessment

Each class teacher is responsible for assessing children's needs and planning for the continuity and progression in the skills, attitudes and understanding relating to RE. The class teacher is also responsible for selecting appropriate tasks that are age appropriate and contribute to our children's social and emotional well-being as well as their educational progress.