

# Wilden V. A. Primary School

A Church of England School



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## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY - September 2019

### OUR SCHOOL VISION

*The mustard seed, the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.*

*Matthew: 13, v 32*

In partnership with parents, governors, St Nicholas Church and community, we strive to ensure all children are embraced and nurtured. Our creative curriculum teaches our children to be generous, loving, resilient, inquisitive and courageous; enabling them to flourish as they journey through God's ever changing garden of life.

### Religious Education at Wilden VA Primary School

Religious Education occupies a special place in Wilden School's curriculum. As a Church of England Voluntary Aided School close links continue with the parish Church of St. Nicholas, the incumbent and the local community.

The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all of its pupils.

### Legal Requirements

The Education Act (1996) and the School Standards and Framework Act (1998) requires that the curriculum for every maintained school shall comprise a basic curriculum which includes RE for all registered pupils at the school. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from RE.

Being a Voluntary Aided School our R.E curriculum is required by law to be determined by the Governors in accordance with the Trust Deed. This is the basis of determining this R.E. policy for our school, recognising that times and society have changed since the formulation of the Trust Deed and the founding of the school. We believe that the our School should positively set standards of behaviour and morality which are informed by Christ's teaching and not merely accept or reflect existing social and moral standards.



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
DIOCESE OF  
ST ALBANS



## Basis for R.E. Curriculum

The R.E. programme for this school is based on the Bedfordshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2018-23 together with the most recent schemes of work developed by the Diocese of St. Albans.

## Aims

In Religious Education at Wilden VA Primary School our aims are to:-

- Develop a knowledge and understanding of Christianity and its impact on our local community, and on our society today
- Develop a knowledge and understanding of some of the other principal religious traditions represented in our society today
- Develop a sense of respect for religious traditions, beliefs and practice.
- Prepare them for later life in a diverse and ever changing world
- Grow in their spiritual development
- Develop a sense of awe and wonder and mystery
- Through a broad curriculum develop skills and attitudes which will support their personal, moral, social and cultural development
- Explore some questions of meaning and consider how the world's religions have responded to them.
- Think about their own beliefs and values in the light of the beliefs of others, both religious and non-religious, and the values of the school community.

RE makes an important contribution to a school's duty to promote community cohesion. It provides a key context to develop young people's understanding and appreciation of diversity, to promote shared values and to challenge racism and discrimination.

## R.E. in the Curriculum

There are opportunities for RE through the cycle of festivals and seasons, links with worship, story time and in every day spontaneous happenings. A regular, weekly RE lesson is incorporated in the curriculum.

As a Church school we follow the recommendation of the National Society of the Church of England that 66% of RE time is spent studying Christianity. We give children from other faiths a sense of belonging by including their faiths in the curriculum.

## Approaches to the teaching of RE

In order to make religious education a lively, active subject we employ a variety of teaching methods including discussion, the development of thinking skills, drama through freeze frames

etc, the use of artefacts, pictures, stories, and the use of periods of stillness and reflection. Where possible we try to develop cross curricular links with other subjects and topics. Some common subjects we link well with R.E. include ICT, music, drama, art and English.

Where possible we want our pupils to have opportunities to encounter different faith communities through visits to places of worship or visits from members of different faith communities.

### Assessment and monitoring of RE

This is in accordance with the school policy on assessment. It is expected that each teacher will be responsible for the regular assessment of his or her pupils through marking work set and use this to inform future short term planning. Class teachers are also responsible for updating tracking grids for their pupils.. This will then be passed to the next class teacher. Foundation stage will continually assess pupils through observations and completion of the Foundation Stage Profile. Assessment feeds into the end of year report which is sent home to parents. There are also opportunities throughout the school year for parents to discuss with the class teacher the progress their child is making within R.E.

The co-ordinator will monitor RE within the school, through scrutiny of work and planning, lesson observations and discussions with pupils, staff and parents.

This policy has been ratified by the governing body and will be reviewed and amended as necessary.

Dated and signed:

Head Teacher

Approved on behalf of the Governing Board:

School Improvement Chair Person