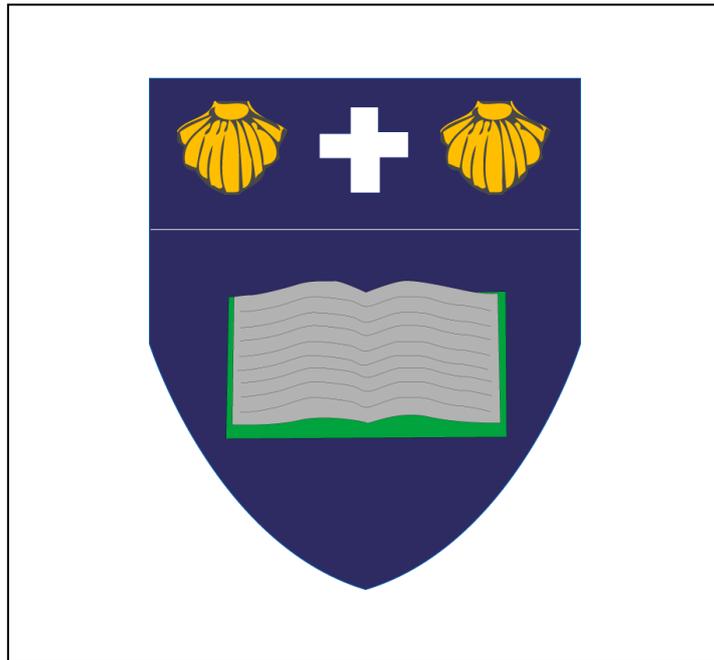


Westleigh Methodist Primary School Religious Education Policy



Date Written: November 2016

Review date: November 19

Chairs signature:

Mission Statement

Westleigh Methodist Primary School aspires to be a Christian family where all can develop to their full potential.

We aim to promote the value of self, others and the environment

Our Vision:

The vision of Westleigh Methodist Primary School is to maintain a small, Christian school where the SLT and staff are knowledgeable about each child's abilities and challenges so that we can offer the most effective support for each individual child to meet those challenges, grow completely as a "well rounded" person and increase his/her skills to perform successfully in all academic areas

Or Mission:

Underpinning our Mission Statement, we seek to sustain a Christian, educational community where:

- ✓ An emphasis on academic excellence is complemented by our concern for each learner's personal growth and spiritual, intellectual, aesthetic, and psychological development.

The curriculum is developmentally responsive, actively engaging children in learning skills in a context; integrative – directing children to connect learning to daily lives; and exploratory – enabling children to discover their abilities, interests, learning styles, and ways that they can make contributions to society

Safeguarding Statement

At the Westleigh Methodist Primary School we recognise our moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children.

We work to provide a safe and welcoming environment where children are respected and valued. We are alert to the signs of abuse and neglect and follow our procedures to ensure that children receive effective support, protection and justice.

The procedures contained in the Safeguarding Policy apply to all staff, volunteers and governors

Religious Education Policy

1. Legal framework

1.1. This policy will have consideration for and be in compliance with the following legislation:

- Education Act 2002
- School Standards and Framework Act 1998

1.2. This policy will also have due regard to the following statutory and non-statutory guidance:

- Religious Education in Schools – February 2010

2. Roles and responsibilities

2.1. The Local Advisory Board (LAB) and the Headteacher will fulfil their duty to:

- Ensure that RE is provided as part of Westleigh Methodist's curriculum.

2.2. The Local Advisory Board (LAB) and Headteacher must also ensure that:

- All pupils make progress in achieving the learning objectives of the RE curriculum.
- The teaching of RE is well led and effectively managed, and that standards and achievement in RE and the quality of the provision are subject to regular and effective self-evaluation.
- Those teaching RE are suitably qualified and trained in the subject and have regular and effective opportunities for continuous professional development (CPD).
- Teachers are aware of RE's contribution in developing pupils' understanding of religion and belief and its impact in promoting community cohesion.
- Where appropriate, pupils have opportunities to take courses which lead to an accredited qualification in the subject.
- Teachers explore how new pedagogies and technology can be fully utilised to support RE learning objectives and promote community cohesion.

- Clear information is provided for parents on the RE curriculum and the right to withdraw.
- RE is resourced, staffed and timetabled so that we can fulfil are legal obligations regarding RE and pupils can make good progress.

3. Teaching

3.1. Christianity will be the majority study in RE at Westleigh Methodist primary School.

3.2. RE will also:

- Provoke challenging questions about the meaning and purpose of life, beliefs, the self, issues of right and wrong, and what it means to be human. As well as Christianity, it will also develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of other principal religions, and religious traditions that examine these questions, fostering personal reflection and spiritual development.
- Encourage pupils to explore their own beliefs (whether they are religious or non-religious), in light of what they learn, as they examine issues of religious belief and faith and how these impact on personal, institutional and social ethics; and to express their responses. This also builds resilience to anti-democratic or extremist narratives.
- Enable pupils to build their sense of identity and belonging, which helps them flourish within their communities and as citizens in a diverse society.
- Teach pupils to develop respect for others, including people with different faiths and beliefs, thereby helping to challenge prejudice.
- Prompt pupils to consider their responsibilities to themselves and to others, and to explore how they might contribute to their communities and to wider society. It encourages empathy, generosity and compassion.

4. Community cohesion

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

4.2. Westleigh Methodist Primary School will use RE to promote community cohesion:

- Through the exploration, promotion and celebration of diversity, beliefs and values.
- At the local level, investigating patterns of diversity of religion and belief, and forging links with different groups.
- At the national level, through the study of the diversity of religion and belief across the UK and how this influences national life.
- At the global level, through the study of matters of international significance, recognising the impact of the diversity of religion and belief on world issues.

4.3. RE subject matter gives particular opportunities to promote an ethos of respect for others, challenge stereotypes and build understanding of other cultures and beliefs. This contributes to promoting an inclusive school ethos that champions democratic values and human rights.

5. Staffing and training

5.1. A well trained and confident workforce is crucial in ensuring good quality RE. We will therefore ensure that:

- All teachers can contribute to the teaching of RE, regardless of their personal beliefs.

5.2. We will also ensure that:

- All teachers teaching RE are up-to-date with the latest regulations, guidance and best practice regarding RE.
- Our school action plans identify the CPD needs of staff in relation to RE.

6. Right of Withdrawal

6.1. Westleigh Methodist Primary School recognises the right of withdrawal of pupils from RE at the request of their parents. No reason needs to be given.

6.2. Where a pupil has been withdrawn, the law provides for alternative arrangements to be made for RE of the kind the parent wants the pupil to receive.

- 6.3. Where alternative arrangements cannot be met, the pupil may receive their RE externally and may be withdrawn from school for a reasonable period of time to allow them to attend these classes.