

The New School at West Heath

Policy on RE and Collective Worship

*This policy should be read in conjunction with related policy documents; **Spiritual moral social and cultural development, Behaviour Management, Rights and Responsibilities, Humanities***

The New School at West Heath believes that an essential part of the education of the whole child is the nurturing of spiritual development. It is important that pupils find meaning in their own lives. This will give them a foundation to overcome emotional and behavioural problems. We would wish to develop a sense of moral understanding so that they may become integral members of a community, respecting and valuing the beliefs of others.

Aims & Objectives:

- To meet National Curriculum and other statutory requirements.
- To encourage pupils to reflect upon and search for experiential meanings, and to be able to communicate their beliefs through discussion and behaviour.
- To ensure pupils understand right and wrong, have respect for others, their property and truth, being concerned as to the effect of their actions and having the ability to make and demonstrate reasonable and reasoned judgements.
- To provide pupils with a basic understanding of major world religions and a range of views on spiritual and moral issues.

Strategies:

1. Spiritual Development and Collective Worship

There are regular opportunities for the whole school to assemble as a community. These assemblies provide a time for reflection on the basis for personal and social behaviour and questions which are at the heart and root of existence. They provide an opportunity for prayer and the cultivation of that sense of awe and wonder which puts our individual existence into context. They play an important part in the development of a sense of community and belonging.

There are full school assemblies on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. There is a key stage 3 assembly on Tuesday and a Key Stage 4 assembly on Thursday. On Wednesday there is an alternative optional Christian assembly with worship and a talk with specifically Christian content. By making this optional students are given the opportunity to cultivate a faith already embraced

or to look into the Christian faith as an interested seeker. This assembly is organised by members of staff who are committed Christians and who represent a spectrum of denominations. They are co-ordinated by the SWW whose area of responsibility is Spiritual Development. At the time of writing up to a quarter of the pupils and a third of the staff attend this assembly. Once each term there is a whole school Christian assembly to provide all pupils with an opportunity to see what is on offer on Wednesday mornings.

Personal reflection is encouraged and is also included within the curriculum in appropriate subjects including Poetry, RE, and Careers. Teachers are encouraged, when appropriate to the curriculum, to allow times for reflection.

Our pastoral approach to the whole child encourages the spiritual. Pupils are actively encouraged to search for meaning in their own lives and to respect the values and beliefs of others. The expected standards of behaviour (see Behaviour Management Policy) for both staff and pupils include demonstrating respect for the beliefs, person, and property of others. The School has agreed a set of rights and responsibilities that are based on the values of respect and tolerance by all for all.

2. Religious Education

Religious Education provided is part of the humanities course for all year groups during the academic year.

Religious Education is offered as an option for GCSE in Years 10 and 11. If the number of students who wish to take this up is enough for a viable group then it is incorporated into the option programme.

The curriculum and schemes of work for Religious Education are described in full in the department's own subject documentation. The curriculum covers a variety of topics including Rituals and Festivals, Death, Charity, Moral Choices. Each topic is examined from the viewpoint of at least three major world religions and group discussion of each topic is encouraged.

A module on the functions of religion, current religious belief in Britain, and views of minority religions within British society is presented as part of the GCSE Sociology syllabus.

Discussions of moral issues are also included in the GCSE Child Development course and Poetry, and in other subjects where relevant to the curriculum.

Staffing & Resources:

Resources for RE are provided within the Humanities budget.

The Humanities teacher is responsible for planning the RE curriculum, schemes of work, and lesson plans. The Humanities teacher is also responsible for liaising with other staff to ensure all National Curriculum and other statutory requirements for RE and Spiritual and Moral Education are met.

One Student Welfare Worker has the lead responsibility for Spiritual Development – those aspects outside the formal RE curriculum.

The Head of Education is responsible for the overall setting and monitoring of policy.

All staff are responsible for ensuring that spiritual and moral issues are covered in accordance with this policy in their subject areas and pastoral work.

External Links:

Outside speakers from local charities and other groups have been invited in to speak to groups of pupils. A full range of programmes involving outside speakers is provided during whole school assemblies.

Pupils undertaking GCSE courses in RE (as part of Humanities), Child Development, or Sociology are often in contact with religious groups and charities as part of their course-work assignments.

RE & Collective Worship	
This Policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies: Curriculum, Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural	
Appendices:	
Monitoring of Policy Implementation is the responsibility of: The Senior Leadership Team	
Lead responsibility:	Vice Principal - Education
Relevant Legislation:	To be detailed in the next release
Annual Policy Review Required:	Yes / No
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