

New Hope Christian School (NHCS) Religious Education Policy Statement

Main Principles

The main principles of religious education within the school are that:

To create an environment where Jesus Christ is loved and worshiped

Aims

The central aims of religious education in the school are to help children;

- grow in their spiritual development through reflections in their feelings and relationships;
- develop skills and attitudes which will support them in their personal, moral and social development;
- develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and its impact on our local community, and on society today;
- explore some questions of meaning and consider how the world's religions have responded to them;
- think about their beliefs and values in the light of the beliefs and values of others, both religious and non religious, and the values of the school community;
- develop knowledge and understanding of the other principle religions in Great Britain;
- recognise the distinctive contribution RE makes to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Approaches to, and Organisations of, Religious Education

In order to make religious education a lively, active subject we employ a variety of teaching methods including art, music, discussion, debate, dance and drama, pictures, photographs, and the use of periods of stillness and quiet reflection. We also visit places of worship and invite in and talk to members of local religious communities. We use story, video and cultural and religious foods to support and enhance the pupils' learning.

Skills and Abilities

At NHCS we believe that religious education has a major contribution to make towards children's learning, especially in terms of their spiritual awareness. Important skills we seek to develop include reflection, empathy (to begin to understand another's point of view), communication (through art and music as well as speaking and writing) and enquiry. Important attitudes include developing respect, sensitivity, and open-mindedness and self-esteem. Much of the work in religious education begins with children's own experiences and emphasises how special and unique they are.

Summary

We hope that religious education in NHCS is an exciting, relevant activity for our children to share in. We regard it as a particular area of the curriculum where values and school ethos "come alive" in the classroom.

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