

<i>Policy adopted by Governors</i>	<i>December 1993</i>
<i>Policy reviewed every two years by Leadership Team</i>	<i>October 2023</i>
<i>Policy to be reviewed</i>	<i>October 2025</i>

BOWER GROVE SCHOOL
WORLD BELIEFS POLICY STATEMENT

Rationale

The Education Act requires a broad and balanced curriculum that promotes the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils. World Beliefs is an area of the curriculum where this educational aim is made explicit. World Beliefs will be taught throughout the school to every registered pupil, in accordance with the wishes of pupil's parents/carers. Whilst parents/carers have the right to withdraw pupils from these lessons, we would hope that parents/carers with any concerns about our World Beliefs programme would confer with the school before requesting that their child be withdrawn. World Beliefs will be taught in accordance with the Kent Agreed Syllabus 2007 (REAct) as far as is practicable. This syllabus was revised in 2022.

This syllabus reflects our school's commitment to strengthen the position of World Beliefs and promote the fundamental British values of respect, understanding and tolerance for those who adhere to different faiths. World Beliefs has equal standing in relation to the other foundation subjects within our school curriculum.

In line with the Kent Agreed Syllabus our plans devote most attention to the Christian tradition, give clear guidance on what is to be taught from all religious traditions and include moral and social education. It does not confine itself exclusively to the Christian tradition nor is it denominational or aiming to convert pupils to a particular religion. It aims to provide a broad and balanced World Beliefs curriculum that will promote the spiritual and moral growth of pupils and develop an appreciation of the different religions of contemporary life. The 6 main religions are taught across the whole school within a spiral curriculum that revisits themes.

All class lead (form tutors) teach World Beliefs.

Aims and Objectives of the World Beliefs policy

- To enable pupils to develop self-awareness and self-respect and to promote a positive attitude towards themselves, others in our community and worldwide.
- To promote awareness of and respect for others and to enable pupils to develop successful personal relationships.
- To promote moral awareness and encourage socially acceptable behaviour.
- To enable pupils to develop a knowledge and understanding of the beliefs and practices of the 6 main religions, especially Christianity.
- To enable pupils to consider ways in which religious beliefs, values and tradition might have significance for their own lives.
- To link with other curricular areas wherever possible and Theme of the Fortnight and whole school assemblies.
- To set out clear guidance for staff, pupils and parents for World Beliefs throughout the school.
- To identify the role and purpose of World Beliefs to pupil development.
- To facilitate continuity and progression throughout the school.
- To ensure equal opportunities for learning for every pupil.

We will achieve these aims by:

- Theme of the fortnight, which is a whole school delivery in form time, uses strands of World Beliefs which are the building blocks to enhance pupil's skills and knowledge for the subject.
- Providing opportunities for self-expression.
- Providing pupils with access to writings from the past and present to show how religious beliefs and practice contribute to the views of a society.
- Pupils will have opportunities to read and listen to religious biographies, stories from the Holy Scriptures and stories of Inspirational Leaders.
- Opportunities will be provided for the use of music, art, dance and drama to explore religious values and themes
- Linked activities may be performed at key stage or whole school assemblies.
- Pupils will be given the opportunity to express their own personal views and to listen to the personal views of others.
- Local and national celebrations such as Remembrance Day, Christmas, Easter, Eid and Diwali Hannukah may be used as a focus for World Beliefs activities and assemblies.
- Pupils will be given the opportunity to experience religious artefacts first hand, as they provide visible and tangible evidence of belief.
- Pupils will have opportunities to share experiences as a large group as well as individually.
- Pupils will be encouraged to develop the practice of reflection.
- Pupils will be introduced to traditional forms of worship where appropriate,
- Where appropriate, pupils will participate in trips or enjoy visits from outside parties, to enable first hand experience of other religions.
- Pupils will have the chance to voice their beliefs, opinions and feelings with mutual respect.
- World Belief Focus Day.

World Beliefs and the Multi-faith community

Some pupils do come in to school with faiths other than Christianity. Where pupils or parents/carers have concerns regarding the content of the school World Beliefs curriculum, the school will work in partnership with them to arrive at a programme that is appropriate.

Assembly

It is the school policy that acts of collective worship will be multi-cultural in content and will reflect the content of the World Beliefs curriculum as far as possible. This will enable ideas to be reinforced and the pupils understanding enhanced (See schools collective worship policy).

Timetable allocation

Pupils in all key stages follow the World Beliefs curriculum which is delivered largely as a holistic approach. Apart from Year 11 where their curriculum is different and they take part in World Beliefs during Form Time with their Form Tutor.

World Beliefs will be taught within the normal teaching groups. It is a matter of school policy that wherever reasonably possible pupils should be taught in their appropriate NC year group and within their appropriate Key Stage.

Including Theme of the Fortnight and World Beliefs all pupils receive an hour a week of World Beliefs.

World Beliefs Qualify of Education and Curriculum Design

From the time pupils arrive in school, we will attempt to build on their experiences of life, family, friends and important events and introduce them to stories, artefacts, pictures and symbols used in religious traditions. The teaching of World Beliefs at this level helps pupils begin to understand and use religious and moral concepts, enabling them to develop positive attitudes towards themselves and others. They will be encouraged to appreciate the natural world, its wonder and complexity. They will be taught about some of the key figures in religion and people whose example has inspired others.

We aim to enhance earlier learning by enabling pupils to understand more fully the religious and moral concepts and apply the insights gained in their own lives. This will be achieved by introducing the pupils to the main beliefs and practices of the 6 main religions

- Christianity
- Sikhism
- Hinduism
- Judaism
- Buddhism
- Islam

Pupils will be taught about the main events in the lives of religious leaders and will be given opportunities to develop their understanding of religious terminology and symbolism within religious literature.

Moral growth will be encouraged so that pupils can face up to their responsibilities and understand their rights as individuals (rights and wrongs). As far as possible, appropriate links will be made between the World Beliefs units of work and other curriculum subjects, bringing out the moral, social and spiritual dimensions of these subjects.

Pupils will have acquired some understanding of the observable features of religion and religious communities, particularly about places of worship, religious literature and the world's great religious figures. They will be developing familiarity with the language used in religion, as well as the stories, symbols and rituals of religion, with some insight into their significance for believers. They should have opportunities to reflect upon experience and thus develop their own sense of personal identity and their relationship with other people.

World Beliefs Curriculum Design/Quality of Education

Pupils will follow a curriculum that will allow them to revisit topics covered in the earlier key stages and study them in greater detail, at a level more appropriate to their increasing maturity.

A major focus of their work will be to enable them to develop their ability to form opinions, make decisions and be able to respect the beliefs of others, even if they do not share them. The pupils should develop an understanding of how their actions can have a direct affect on people around them and that every action carries a consequence, be it good or bad. SMSC will help create skills to understand more difficult areas of the curriculum. Theme of the fortnight is delivered to allow pupils to think and share their thoughts and listen to others.

Record Keeping and Staff Records

Assessment will be carried out and monitored by the subject leader.

Attitudes to learning, teacher feedback and pupils progress is monitored and data collected once a year on the Annual Report.

Each pupil's attitude to learning will be reported in accordance with Government target setting guidelines and these levels will be reported to parents via the Annual Statutory Review Report and updated annually.

Assessment will be an ongoing process and pupils work and achievements will be regularly monitored by the subject/class teacher. Where appropriate, pupils will be encouraged to self assess through the use of pupil response and discussions, linked to previous learning and any area of their own development. Staff Self Reviews are used to capture attitudes to learning 3 times a year.

Term 1 Bower Values, Tolerances, Rules and Morals

Term 2 Who are Hindus & Sikhs

Term 3 Buddhist Beliefs

Term 4 What it means to be Jewish

Term 5 Muslims and their Traditions

Term 6 The Nature of Christians

Previous area that have been taught will be revisited for the retention of our pupils and to allow sequence of learning.

The whole school year 1 – 10 will complete these themes and each year revisited in further depth and knowledge. We deliver a very broad curriculum that helps to create all rounded individuals which is revisited every year to enhance their retention and learning knowledge.

Our school delivers Christian Festivals throughout the year. Christmas and Easter Celebrations and Assemblies are a whole school delivery along with a Carol Service and visits to our local Church outside of the Curriculum.