

**Executive Head Teacher:**

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Learning Together, Believing Together

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15th February 2019

Dear Parent and Carers,

Following an enquiry received from one of our parents, I am writing to clarify the school's position on the teaching of Religious Education and the focus for daily assemblies at the school.

When teaching Religious Education the school follows the East Sussex agreed syllabus, <https://czone.eastsussex.gov.uk/media/2423/east-sussex-agreed-syllabus-june-2017.pdf>

This is the recommended syllabus that is followed by all East Sussex schools. The focus for this is to develop the children's knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith and of other principal religions (KS1 – Judaism, KS2 – all world religions covered over four year rolling programme).

The school's daily assemblies take place for twenty minutes every morning, the focus for these assemblies is as follows:

Monday – Current school value linked assembly led by Lily Doone (this can sometimes be a religious focus and is from the Scheme 'Values for Life').

Tuesday – Phase Assemblies – Foxes and Owls together; Squirrels and Badgers together. Current school value linked assembly.

Wednesday – Singing assembly led by Mrs Tomsett and Mrs Force. (James Hollingsworth leads the penultimate or final Wednesday assembly of each term – this is communicated to parents in advance.)

Thursday – Class assemblies or an assembly led by Mr James. This is sometimes religious, based on all world religions.

Friday – Celebration of work assembly led by Ms Battle.

All assemblies end with a prayer that children can either take part in or not.

James Hollingsworth and Ali Brown (lay minister, youth and children's work) also lead a voluntary club on Friday afternoons from 1pm – 1.30pm focusing on cartoon adaptations of popular stories from the Old Testament.

Through teaching Religious Education in our school, we provide opportunities for spiritual development. Children consider and respond to questions concerning the meaning and purpose of life. We help them to recognise the difference between right and wrong through the study of moral and ethical questions. We enhance their social development by helping them to build a sense of identity in a multicultural society. Children explore issues of religious faith and values and, in so doing, they develop their knowledge and understanding of the cultural context of their own lives.

Children can be withdrawn from religious teaching. However, I will need to have this instruction in writing from parents and parents will need to provide suitable spiritual or philosophical work for the

children to complete whilst they are not being taught by the teacher.

If you have any further questions regarding the teaching of Religious Education and assemblies at school please do make an appointment to meet with me.

Yours sincerely,

Stewart James



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