

**Executive Head Teacher:**

Mr Stewart James
BA (Hons) QTS

Head Teacher:

Mrs Ruth Force
BEd Hons

Barcombe Cross
Near Lewes
East Sussex
BN8 5DN

Tel: (01273) 400287



Learning Together, Believing Together

E-mail: barcombeoffice@skylarkfed.education

Website: www.barcombe.e-sussex.sch.uk

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Dear Parent and Carers

I am writing to clarify the schools position on the teaching of religious education and the focus on daily assemblies at the school. I would also like to clarify that the religious content and guidance has not changed since I joined the school at Deputy Head Teacher in September 2010.

When teaching religious education the schools 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 collective worship takes place for twenty minutes every morning. The focus for these sessions are as follows:

Monday – Hymn practice (Mrs Force)

Tuesday – Values-based worship (Mrs Tomsett)

Wednesday – Values-based worship (Rev James Hollingsworth or visitors from other local churches)

Thursday – Values-based worship (Mr James)

Friday – Celebration of work assembly led by Ms Battle.

All assemblies end with a prayer that children can either take part in or choose not to, reflecting quietly instead.

Ali Brown (Family and Children's Interparish Mission Initiator) also leads a voluntary club on a Friday afternoon from 1pm to 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Children can be withdrawn from religious teaching.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 work for the children to complete whilst they are not being taught by the teacher. This should be philosophical questions to consider,

mindful colouring, or Aquila magazine, as outlined in the Collective Worship policy.

If you have any further questions regarding the teaching or religious education and assemblies at school, please do make an appointment to meet with me.

Yours sincerely,

Stewart James



Executive Head Teacher



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East Sussex County Council **E-mail:** office@barcombe.e-sussex.sch.uk **Website:** www.barcombe.e-sussex.sch.uk