

# **RE Policy**

May 2023

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## <u>INTENT</u>

## **Our vision**

At Woodborough Woods, we 'Grow Together' following Jesus' example to 'Love your neighbour as you love yourself' (Matthew 22:37-39) because through love for one another, we can build a strong learning community ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to flourish.

# **Our mission**

Jesus taught his followers to grow together in faith, supporting each other along this path. Our mission is to ensure all pupils are able to let their light shine in ways that support their individuality. The fruits of the Holy Spirit encapsulate this perfectly, guiding us on our journey towards becoming inspirational members of our community. During their time in school, pupils learn about these fruits and recognise ways in which they can show these qualities in their daily lives.

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Galatians 5:22-23

## Our core values

Each half term we will explore our vision and mission statement by using our school values as chosen by our school community. Each week staff are on the lookout for pupils demonstrating our chosen value. These children will be celebrated during our weekly 'Shining Star' worship to recognise the part they have played in sharing our values. With parental permission, their photos will also be shared with the wider school community via Yammer.



## **IMPLEMENTATION**

## 1. Aims and objectives

Religious education enables children to investigate and reflect on some of the most fundamental questions asked by people. At Woods Foundation Church of England Primary School we develop the children's knowledge and understanding of the major world faiths, and we address the fundamental questions in life, for example, the meaning of life and the existence of a divine spirit. We enable children to develop a sound knowledge of Christianity and other world religions. Children reflect on what it means to have a faith and to develop their own spiritual knowledge and understanding. We help the children learn from religions as well as about religions.

## The aims of religious education are to help children:

- •develop an awareness of spiritual and moral issues in life experiences;
- •develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other major world religions and value systems found in Britain;
- •develop an understanding of what it means to be committed to a religious tradition;
- •be able to reflect on their own experiences and develop a personal response to fundamental questions of life;
- develop an understanding of religious traditions and to appreciate the cultural differences in Britain today;
- •develop investigative research skills and to enable them to make reasoned judgements about religious issues;
- •have respect for other peoples' views and to celebrate the diversity in society.

## 2. The legal position of religious education

Our school curriculum for religious education meets the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act (ERA). The ERA stipulates that religious education is compulsory for all children, including those in the reception class who are less than five. The ERA allows parents to withdraw their child from RE if they so wish, although this should only be done once the parents have given written notice to the school governors. The ERA also allows teachers to refuse to teach religious education, but only after they have given due notice of their intention to the school governors. The religious education curriculum forms an important part of our school's spiritual, moral and social teaching. It also promotes education for citizenship. Our school RE curriculum is based on the LA's Agreed Syllabus and it meets all the requirements set out in that document. The ERA states that the RE syllabus should reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, and that it should, at the same time, take account of the teachings and practices of other major religions.

## 3. SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Further definition of these terms is helpful because they are so important in a school's work. In promoting an

increased awareness of them, the quality of pupil responses are as important as the provision itself.

#### SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

The growth of spiritual awareness is largely a personal matter but pupils' and students' spiritual awareness can be encouraged in RE by kindling the spark of ideas, or by helping them explore their emerging consciousness, spirit or inner-self. The development of spirituality is about looking beyond the material world and developing a sense of self-worth, awe and wonder. Pupils and students should be encouraged to develop traditional ideas, feelings and emotions about the key questions of life, death and their own experiences. In doing so, pupils and students need opportunities to think about the ways in which they respond to their family, social boundaries, their own experiences and the thoughts and ideas of others. This allows them to develop their own behaviour, attitudes and values.

## **MORAL DEVELOPMENT**

Moral development encourages the growth of beliefs and relationships that demonstrate a respect for self, a respect for others and a responsibility for the ways in which society operates. While responding positively to codes of conduct and the norms and rules of society, pupils and students need to develop the capacity for bringing about change through taking moral decisions and making reasoned, moral judgments. In local, regional and global issues, human rights, personal duties and responsibilities should underpin the ethical dimension to solving real problems.

## **SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

Social development is closely related to pupils' and students' moral development. Social development relates to personal relationships within classrooms and beyond, to the development of co-operative skills through residential experiences and political education through economic and industrial understanding, careers, health education and environmental awareness. Personal development includes an increased ability to respond to a variety of situations with appropriate and sensitive behaviour. In these situations, pupils and students should be encouraged to develop the skills of leadership, team work, initiative and co-operation. Through life-themes, pupils and students may develop their knowledge and understanding of social groupings, democratic processes and the ways in which social institutions operate.

# **CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT**

Pupils' and students' cultural development strengthens their understanding of the beliefs, values and customs that form the basis of our society. The values given to their responses to music, art, drama, dance literature, poetry, science and technology, in addition to RE, contribute to cultural awareness. Cultures change and develop through time. Pupils and students need to learn about those aspects of times past which influence the present. They need to recognise the significance of

the customs and beliefs of difference groups within society. In addition, they need to be aware of the changing values, customs and traditions that shape their cultural heritage. In developing pupils' and students' cultural awareness, the influences of religious beliefs, ethnic background, heritage and aspirations need to be considered.

# 4. Teaching and learning style

We base our teaching and learning style in RE on the key principle that good teaching in RE allows children both to learn about religious traditions and to reflect on what the religious ideas and concepts mean to them. Our teaching enables children to extend their own sense of values and promotes their spiritual growth and development. We encourage children to think about their own views and values in relation to the themes and topics studied in the RE curriculum. Our teaching and learning styles in RE enable children to build on their own experiences and extend their knowledge and understanding of religious traditions. We use their experiences at religious festivals, such as Christmas and Easter, to develop their religious thinking. We organise visits to local places of worship and invite representatives of local religious groups to come into school and talk to the children. Children carry out research into religious topics. They study particular religious faiths and also compare the religious views of different faith groups on topics such as rites of passage or festivals. Children discuss and research religious and moral issues, working individually and in groups. We recognise the fact that all classes in our school have children of widely differing abilities, so we provide suitable learning opportunities by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child. We achieve this in a variety of ways, for example, by:

- •setting common tasks which are open-ended and can have a variety of responses;
- •setting tasks of increasing difficulty (we do not expect all children to complete all tasks);
- grouping the children by ability and setting different tasks for each ability group;
- providing resources of different complexity, adapted to the ability of the child;
- •using classroom assistants to support the work of individuals or groups of children.

## 5. Curriculum planning in religious education

We plan our religious education curriculum in accordance with the LA's Agreed Syllabus. We ensure that the topics studied in religious education build upon prior learning. We offer opportunities for children of all abilities to develop their skills and knowledge in each unit, and we ensure that the planned progression built into the scheme of work offers the children an increasing challenge as they move through the school.

We carry out the curriculum planning in religious education in three phases (long-term, medium-term and short-term). The long-term plan maps the religious education topics studied in each term during each key stage. Our medium-term plans give details of each unit of work for each term. The class teacher then plans each lesson based on the specific learning objectives for that lesson (short term plan).

# 6. Foundation Stage

We teach religious education to all children in the school, including those in the Foundation Stage. Religious education is an integral part of the learning covered during the year. Pupils encounter religions and worldviews through special people, books, times, places and objects and by visiting places of worship. They listen to and talk about stories from the Bible. Our pupils are introduced to subject specific words and use all their senses to explore beliefs, practices and forms of expression. They ask questions and reflect on their own feelings and experiences. They use their imagination and curiosity to develop their appreciation of and wonder at the world in which they live. We relate the religious education aspects of the children's work to the objectives set out in the EYFS profile, which underpins the curriculum planning for children aged three to five. The RE topics covered throughout the year are outlined in the long term plan and taught weekly.

## 7. Contribution of religious education to the teaching of other subjects

**English:** Religious education contributes significantly to the teaching of English in our school by actively promoting the skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening. Some of the texts that we use during English lessons have religious themes or content, which encourages discussion, and this is our way of promoting the skills of speaking and listening. We also encourage the children to write letters and record information in order to develop their writing ability.

**Computing:** We use ICT where appropriate in religious education. The children find, select and analyse information using the internet. They also use ICT to review, modify and evaluate their work and to improve its presentation.

**Personal, social and health education (PSCHE) and citizenship:** Through our religious education lessons, we teach the children about the values and moral beliefs that underpin individual choices of behaviour. So, for example, we contribute to the discussion of topics such as smoking, drugs and health education. We also promote the values and attitudes required for citizenship in a democracy by teaching respect for others and the need for personal responsibility. In general, by promoting tolerance and understanding of other people, we enable children to appreciate what it means to be positive members of our pluralistic society.

## 8. Teaching religious education to children with special educational needs

Religious education forms part of the school curriculum policy to provide a broad and balanced education to all children. Through our religious education teaching we provide learning opportunities that enable all pupils to make progress. We do this by setting suitable learning challenges and responding to each child's different needs. Assessment against the locally agreed syllabus allows us to consider each child's attainment and progress against expected levels. When progress falls significantly outside the expected range, the child may have special educational needs. Our assessment process looks at a range of factors – classroom organisation, teaching

materials, teaching style, differentiation – so that we can take some additional or different action to enable the child to learn more effectively. This ensures that our teaching is matched to the child's needs. We enable pupils to have access to the full range of activities involved in learning religious education. Where children are to participate in activities outside the classroom, for example, to visit a place of worship, we carry out a risk assessment prior to the activity, to ensure that the activity is safe and appropriate for all pupils.

## 9. Assessment and recording

We assess children's work in religious education by making informal judgements as we observe them during lessons. We mark a piece of work once it has been completed and we comment as necessary. On completion of a unit of work, we make a summary judgement about the work of each pupil in relation to the expectations of the unit. Teachers use skills the assessment opportunities as suggested by the diocese for the end of each of the Understanding Christianity units. For example, in Year 3 and 4, the children may be asked to do one of the following to demonstrate their understanding from the Incarnation topic:

## What is the trinity?

- Art: How would you represent the trinity and why? (3 in 1, e.g. cupcake/apple/twix etc.)
- Write/ poem: "I am not just a good man" (a poem writing from the perspective of Jesus)
- Drama: The story of John the Baptist, baptising Jesus.
- Discussion/ Writing: Compare two paintings of the baptism (Verrocchio and Daniel Bonnell)
- Questions: What do you still want to know about God? (Christians find understanding God is challenging and there is always more to learn).
- Writing: new verse to a Christmas carol which puts the ideas of light/life/love or glory into the song.

We use this as a basis for assessing the progress of each child at the end of each term using skills ladders developed for each year group, for setting new goals, and for passing information on to the next teacher at the end of the year. The RE subject leader keeps samples of children's work in a portfolio. This demonstrates what the expected level of achievement is in RE in each year of the school.

#### 10. Resources

We keep resources for religious education in a central store where there is a separate box of equipment and a collection of religious artefacts for each religion. Each class also has their own bible and prayer books in the classroom. In addition to this, we have access to resources from the Religious Studies Resource Centre in Nottingham.

# 11. Monitoring and review

The RE subject leader is responsible for monitoring the standards of the children's work and the quality of the teaching in religious education. They are also responsible for supporting colleagues in the teaching of religious education, for being informed about current developments in the subject, and for providing a strategic lead and direction for the subject in the school.

# 12. Long term planning

FOUNDATION STAGE			
AUTUMN	SPRING	SUMMER	
Belonging – who are we	CREATION	Which people are special	
and how do we belong?	Our Wonderful World:	and why?	
	how can we care for the		
Use some of the Dottie	living things and the	Christianity and Sikhism –	
and Buzz 'Belonging and	earth?	talk about special people	
baptism' material to		from both religions & talk	
support	UC unit 1 – God/Creation	about what can be learnt	
	'Why is the word 'God' so	from it. Think about	
	important to Christians?'	special people in their	
	& 'How can we care for	lives	
	our wonderful world?'		
<b>INCARNATION</b>	<u>SALVATION</u>	What places are special	
What times are special	Which Stories are special	and why?	
and why?	and why?		
		Use some of the Dottie &	
includes Diwali (Hinduism)	Use UC unit 3 – Salvation –	Buzz at a Church material	
& Sukkot <mark>(Judaism)</mark> &	(Easter)	(Main focus is on church	
Christianity (Incarnation &	'Why do Christians put a	artefacts. Only a light	
Advent)	cross in an Easter	touch to be given to	
	garden?' & 'How can we	session 4, 'What happens	
Use UC unit 2 –	help others when they	in a church?' as this is the	
<u>Incarnation – (Christmas)</u>	need it?'	major focus in the	
'Why do Christians		equivalent Yr 1 unit)	
perform Nativity plays at			
Christmas?' & 'What			
makes every single			
person unique and	ASSESSMENT		
precious?'	OPPORTUNITY		
		ASSESSMENT	
ASSESSMENT		OPPORTUNITY	
OPPORTUNITY			

The 'Jesus' Miracles and Jesus' Stories' unit of work can be used to supplement RE in FS2, but the story of the Prodigal/Lost Son must NOT be used, as it is a focus in Year 1.

YEAR 1			
AUTUMN	SPRING	SUMMER	
God	Creation	Celebrating festivals	
UC unit 1.1 Core	UC unit 1.2 Core	New Syllabus Unit 1.1 -	
<b>Learning</b>	<b>Learning</b>	Celebrations and festival?	
'What do Christians	'Who made the	(ensuring discussion about	
believe God is like?'	world?'	Judaism – Shabbat and	
(includes focus on	(includes theme of	Hannukah – what celebrations,	
Prodigal Son parable,	thankfulness)	stories, artefacts and food etc).	
types of prayer,			
forgiveness)			
Time allowing			
Time allowing			
incorporate some of the			
<b>Belonging – baptism</b> - sessions 6, 7, 8 (other			
aspects of belonging			
from this unit can be			
incorporated into the UC			
God 1.1 unit)			
Incarnation	Salvation	Visiting a place of worship	
UC unit 1.3 Core	UC unit 1.5 Core	New Syllabus Unit 1.4 -	
<b>Learning</b>	Learning (Easter)	Symbols in religious worshop	
(Christmas)	'Why does Easter		
'Why does Christmas	matter to Christians?'	and practice. In what ways are	
matter to Christians?'	(includes exploration	churches/synagogues	
(includes the themes of	of the emotions arising	important to believers?	
signs of Christmas and	in the Easter story,	Aim to include a visit (virtual or	
thankfulness)	and traditions of		
	Easter)	real) to a synagogue here to	
Include a vicit to church		compare to church	
Include a visit to church			
	ASSESSMENT	ASSESSMENT	
ASSESSMENT			

YEAR 2				
AUTUMN	AUTUMN SPRING SUMMER			
God	Gospel	JUDAISM		
		BS unit - Jewish celebrations		
UC unit 1.1 – Digging	UC unit 1.4 – core	and stories, but omitting		

## Deeper

'What do Christians believe God is like?' (incorporates story of Jonah and the Whale, which was in Jewish stories unit. Also, discusses concept of Christian songs, and using art to explore ideas about God)

## **learning**

'What is the good news Jesus brings?' (includes themes of prayer and the parable of 'The Pearl of Great Price')

BS – SPR 1 - Jesus and his stories (incorporate two stories from this unit into the UC Gospel 1.4 unit, as evidence of Jesus as a bringer of Good News – DON'T do the Prodigal Son, as it is done in Year 1) content about Moses, as this is done through a UC unit in KS2

Include lessons from New Syllabus Unit 2.2 - What do Jewish people believe about God, creation, humanity and the natural world? (focus on creation story and Shabbat in more detail)

## Incarnation

UC unit 1.3 – Digging Deeper (Christmas)
'Why does Christmas matter to Christians?' (includes theme of kingship)

## **Salvation**

UC unit 1.5 – Digging Deeper (Easter) 'Why does Easter matter to Christians?' (includes themes of sin and forgiveness)

## **JUDAISM**

The Torah and Jewish Stories New Syllabus Unit 2.1 - What makes some people inspiring to others? (so as well as teaching about Moses as a leader, ensure discussion about Christian stories of Jesus and Saint Peter so can compare and discuss the theme's enquiry).

#### **ASSESSMENT**

**ASSESSMENT** 

New Syllabus Unit 2.4 - How and why are some stories important in religions? (ensuring discussion about Judaism/Christianity as a comparison)

**ASSESSMENT** 

YEAR 3			
AUTUMN	SPRING	SUMMER	
Creation/Fall	Inspirational people	Kingdom of God	
	from the past	J	
UC unit 2A.1 – Core	'	UC unit 2A.6 - Core	
Learning (& Digging Deeper			
where possible)		<mark>Deeper</mark>	
'What do Christians learn	What can we learn from	'When Jesus left, what	
from the Creation story?'	inspiring people in	was the impact of	
(includes themes of	sacred texts and in the	Pentecost?'	
stewardship, temptation,	history of religions?	(includes themes of the	
the commandments,		Holy Spirit, the 'body of	
forgiveness)		Christ' and the fruits of the	
		spirit)	
Incarnation/God	Salvation	SIKHISM	
, 20 a			
UC unit 2A.3 - Core	UC unit 2A.5 – Core	Where, how and why do	
<b>Learning</b>	Learning (Easter)	people worship?	
'What is the Trinity?'	'Why do Christians call		
CHRISTMAS / ADVENT	the day Jesus died 'Good	New Syllabus Unit 3.3 &	
ASSESSMENT	Friday'?'	4.4 - How do Sikh families	
	(includes themes of	practise their faith?	
	Mary's point of view, and		
	emotions of joy, sadness	ASSESSMENT	
	and hope)		
	and hope)  Visit to Southwell		
	and hope)  Visit to Southwell  Minster – Time		
	and hope)  Visit to Southwell		

Young Leaders Award – Archbishop of York Youth Trust

Year 3 Unit Number 3.4 from the New Syllabus 2021-26

**Theme:** Inspirational people from the past

**Enquiry Question**: What can we learn from inspiring people in sacred texts and in

the history of religions?

YEAR 4			
AUTUMN	SPRING	SUMMER	
Gospel	People of God	Religion, family and community: Prayer new	
UC unit 2A.4 – Core	UC unit 2A.2 - Core	syllabus unit 3.2	
Learning & Digging	Learning & Digging		
<b>Deeper</b>	<b>Deeper</b>	ISLAM	
'What kind of world did	'What is it like to follow		
Jesus want?'	God?'	How do religious families	
(includes themes of Jesus'	(includes the stories of	and communities practice	
love for all, and stories of	Noah and Abraham, and	their faith?	
'Jesus Heals a Leper', &	themes of covenant,	(with comparison/links to	
'The Good Samaritan')	trust, obedience and	Christianity)	
	faith)		
Incarnation/God	Salvation	The Journey of Life and	
		Death/ Symbols and	
UC unit 2A.3 – Digging	UC unit 2A.5 – Digging	Religious Expression New	
Deeper (Christmas)	Deeper (Easter)	Syllabus Units 4.1 and 4.2	
'What is the Trinity?'	'Why do Christians call		
(includes the theme of	the day Jesus died 'Good	Why do some people think	
different Gospel's	Friday'?'	life is like a journey?	
versions of Christmas	(includes themes of		
events)	service, celebration,	(ensuring discussion about	
	rememberance, betrayal	Islam/ Sikhism/Christianity	
Church visit + Vicar >	and trust)	as a comparison)	
communion		ASSESSMENT	
ASSESSMENT	ASSESSMENT		

YEAR 5			
AUTUMN	SPRING	SUMMER	
People of God	Beliefs and questions	Creation/Fall	
UC unit 2B.3 – Core	New Syllabus Unit 5.3	UC unit 2B.2 – Core	
Learning & Digging		Learning & Digging Deeper	
Deeper	How do people's beliefs	'Creation and science:	
'How can following God	about God, the world,	conflicting or	
bring freedom and	and others have an	complementary?'	
justice?'	impact on their lives?	(includes use of Genesis 1.1-2.3	
(includes the story of Moses,	(ensuring discussion about	and Psalm 8 text studies, and the	
the Exodus, and the 10	Islam/ Sikhism as a	theme of stewardship)	
Commandments, and themes	comparison)		
of covenant and the 'Five	NOTE: INCLUDE MENTION OF		
Marks of Mission')	ARCHITECTURE BIT FROM 5.4		

## Incarnation

UC unit 2B.4 – Core
Learning (Christmas)
'Was Jesus the Messiah?'
(includes themes of proof and belief)

**ASSESSMENT** 

#### Salvation

UC unit 2B.6 – Core Learning (Easter) 'What did Jesus do to save human beings?' (includes use of Isaiah 53 and John 19, and the themes of sacrifice, sin, communion, martyrdom, prophecy)

**ASSESSMENT** 

# Sikhism

BS – SUM 2 – Religions here and now New Syllabus Unit 5.1 - Inspirational people in today's world. What can we learn from great leaders and inspiring examples in today's world?

(discussion about Islam/ Sikhism/Christianity as a comparison)

New Syllabus Unit 5.4 - beliefs in action in the world (discussion about Islam/ Sikhism/Christianity as a comparison) NOTE: DON'T COVER ARCHITECTURE AS THIS IS

COVERED IN 5.3)
ASSESSMENT

YEAR 6			
AUTUMN	SPRING	SUMMER	
Kingdom of God	ISLAM	Gospel	
	BS – SPR 1&2 – Exploring		
UC unit 2B.8 - Core	Muslim Families	UC unit 2B.5 - Core Learning	
Learning & Digging	(condensed so as to	& Digging Deeper	
<mark>Deeper</mark>	include the details from	'What would Jesus do?'	
'What kind of king is	new syllabus as below)	(includes use of 'The Wise and	
Jesus?'	Include lessons from New	Foolish Builders', 'The Sermon on	
(includes use of parables 'The	Syllabus Unit 6.1 - Teachings,	the Mount', 'The Centurion's	
Feast' in Luke 14, and 'Tenants	wisdom and authority	Servant', 'The Moneylenders in the	
in the Vineyard' in Matthew	(ensuring discussion about	Temple', 'The Woman in Trouble'	
21, and 'The Unforgiving	Islam/ Christianity as a	and the themes of reconciliation,	
Servant' in Matthew 18, and	comparison)	trust, forgiveness and justice)	
themes of charity and		(link to values to live by, when	
forgiveness)		moving on in life from Woods	
(incorporate some charity		school)	

# Incarnation

UC unit 2B.4 – Digging Deeper (Christmas)

ideas from BS – AUT 2 – Making a difference in the world, particularly session 7 about Muslim charities)

**'Was Jesus the Messiah?'** (includes use of 'The Entry into Jerusalem', 'The

Transfiguration' and themes of peace and transformation)

#### Salvation

UC unit 2B.7 – Digging Deeper

(Easter)

'What difference does the resurrection make to Christians?'

(includes use of John's and Luke's Gospels and themes of salvation, death and hope)

**ASSESSMENT** 

# Beliefs in action

Southwell Minster

How do religions and beliefs respond to global issues of human rights, fairness, social justice and the importance of the environment?

New Syllabus Unit 6.2 & 6.3

- Beliefs in Action in the world (ensuring discussion about

ASSESSMENT	Islam/ Sikhism/Christianity as a
	comparison)
	ASSESSMENT

Guidance for staff regarding exercise books / display / prayers:

- Driver words inside front cover and to be referenced at the start of each lesson & include in objectives (see examples in saved pupil books)
- RE journey through the year display topic titles in order on the RE display
- Big frieze U/C display
- Prayer area five finger prayers post it notes (allow opportunities for chren to offer prayers regularly)
- Topic covers at the start of each unit (including into the class RE book)
- Big Q discussion into class RE book at the start of the unit
- End of unit reflections on the Big Q
- Assessment at the end of each term (Aut 2, Spr 2, Sum 2)
- Daily prayers start of the day (school prayer), lunch (grace), end of the day (class prayer book)

## **Godly Play Cycle**

Year	Autumn	Spring	Summer
A (2023/24)	Moses	Eucharist	Good Samaritan
B (2024/25)	Joseph	Easter	Parable of the pearl
C (2022/23)	Holy Family	Good	Abraham
		Shepherd	

## **Godly Play aims to:**

- provide a safe space in which children can encounter and engage with stories from the Judaeo-Christian tradition;
- help children make connections between these stories and their own experience;
- support spiritual development;
- make the language of religion familiar.

## **Godly Play is:**

- a discovery method of teaching and learning;
- a method that is focused on the need of the whole child: body, mind and spirit;
- a multi-sensory approach that combines and integrates language (the verbal system) and play (the non-verbal system);
- an approach that encourages a calm, quiet and deliberate way of working.

## **Godly Play is not:**

- a by-rote or transfer method of teaching and learning.
- Godly Play has been influenced and informed by:

• the Montessori tradition of education;

Sofia Cavalletti's work on the religious formation of the child;

Jerome Berryman's experience over more than 30 years, working with children and researching the method in a variety of settings; a worldwide network of Godly Play practitioners who have supported and informed Berryman's research process.

A typical session of Godly Play lasts around 45 minutes to one hour, although sessions can last longer if sufficient time is available. Two adults, a story-teller and a doorperson should be present to facilitate the session, which typically proceeds through the following stages:

**At the threshold** - the children are welcomed by the doorperson and invited to sit in a circle with the story-teller.

**Building the circle** - the story-teller settles the group in preparation for the story. **Presenting the lesson** - the story-teller focuses on the special materials used to present the story. These are usually three dimensional figures crafted in natural materials.

**Wondering** - the children are invited to wonder about the story and explore their connectedness to it. Some wonder aloud; others in silence.

**Saying goodbye** - the session ends and each child is spoken to, by the story-teller and by the doorperson, before they leave.

**Response** - the children decide on their own response to the story, which may be through art work, or learning to retell the story with the original materials, or through games, maps, puzzles or books.