

Long Furlong Primary School

Our values as a Community School – a position paper on our relationship with religion and other world views.

Whilst we recognise that the United Kingdom has an ‘established’ religion, this country has become a multicultural society, and we respect the religious and philosophical beliefs of those in our community equally. We treat all with respect and dignity, and do not favour any one belief system or an absence of belief.

As per section 78 of the Education Act 2002, we will promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of our pupils.

In discharging our statutory obligations, we do not seek to promote any one belief system, nor to convert children. In practical terms, this means:

- We don’t promote a religious view
- We don’t encourage children to be more or less religious than they would otherwise be
- We don’t make assumptions about what beliefs our children may have – i.e. we don’t assume that, by default, they adhere to a ‘majority’ religious belief
- We treat everybody with equal respect, regardless of our personal convictions
- The whole school community, including visitors to Long Furlong, are expected to model open, tolerant and respectful behaviour at all times
- As a school we believe that children need to be equipped to arrive at their own personal spiritual and moral beliefs and values, through understanding and questioning. We will provide opportunities to explore religion, spirituality and morality across the curriculum and teach children to be critical thinkers across a range of subjects.

As in all other subject areas, the teaching of Religious Education at Long Furlong is tailored to the ages and abilities of the children being taught. No member of staff will promote one religion, set of beliefs or an absence of beliefs in preference to any other. Parents will be fully informed of their rights to withdraw their child from Religious Education lessons. However, in line with the principles established by Oxfordshire SACRE (Standing Advisory Committee on Religious Education), the curriculum will be structured to try to ensure all pupils will be able to attend Religious Education teaching.

As per DfE guidance, Long Furlong School promotes “the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs” (*DfE, Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools, 2014*).

In the unlikely event that the School experiences religious or cultural intolerances or practices at odds with our position the School will consider the following while attempting to resolve any issues.

- The best interests of the child must be a top priority

- Every child has the right to have a say in all matters affecting them, and to have their views taken seriously
- Every child must be free to say what they think, in the appropriate forum, and to seek and receive all kinds of information, as long as it is within the law.
- Every child has the right to think and believe what they want and to practise their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights.
- As a Community School, should policy conflicts be identified, priority will be given to our school policies on, e.g., Behaviour, Equality, Safeguarding and Sex and Relationships Education.