

# **Barlaston & Tittensor Scout Group - Religious Policy**

## **Religious Policy**

*NB B&T Scout Group is not sponsored by a particular religion or place of worship.*

The Scout Movement includes Members of many different faiths and religions as well as those with no formal religion. The following policy has received the approval of the heads of the leading religious bodies in the United Kingdom. All Members of the Movement are encouraged to:

- make every effort to progress in the understanding and observance of the Promise to do their best to do their duty to God or to uphold Scouting's values as appropriate;
- explore their faith, beliefs and attitudes
- consider belonging to some faith or religious body;
- carry into daily practice what they profess.

### **Attendance at services**

If a Scout Group, Explorer Scout Unit or Scout Network is composed of members of several denominations, religions or beliefs, the young people should be encouraged to attend services relevant to their own form of religion or belief.

### **Chaplains**

Chaplains may be appointed as Advisers in Scout Groups, Districts, Counties, Countries and Nationally. A Chaplain may be a Minister of Religion or a lay person.

In a Scout Group sponsored by a religious body the religious leader may be appointed Group Chaplain.

National Chaplains may be appointed for religious bodies represented in Scouting.

### Responsibilities within the Religious Policy

- a. The District Lead Volunteer or the County Lead Volunteer, as appropriate, must be satisfied that all applicants for Leader or Lead Volunteer appointments are fully aware that they will be required by their personal example to implement the Association's religious policy.
- b. If a Sponsored Group has a policy of recruitment restricted to members of one particular form of religion or denomination, the Sponsoring Authority is responsible for the religious training of all young people in the Group. (*B&T Group is not sponsored*)
- c. In this case it is the duty of the Group Lead Volunteer to encourage attendance at such religious instruction and observances as the Sponsoring Authority may consider desirable.
- d. Scouts' Own Services may be held for the purpose of spiritual reflection and to promote a fuller understanding of the significance of the Scout Promise and Law.
- e. Such services must be regarded as supplementary to, rather than a substitute for, formal attendance at the services of the individual's own form of religion.
- f. If a Beaver Scout, Cub Scout, Scout is not allowed, by reasons of the individual's own religious obligations, to attend acts of worship other than that of the individual's own faith, the Leader must make certain that those obligations are not compromised.

B & T Scout Group's policy, in general, aims to closely reflect and sit comfortably within the framework of The Scout Association's Religious Policy.