

Religious Education Curriculum Statement

Unlike other subjects R.E. is not in the National Curriculum. It is, however, a core subject. Witchampton C of E First School is a Church of England Voluntary Aided School therefore the provision of RE must be in accordance with the Trust deed of the school.

We aim to foster a sense of awe and wonder in the children, encouraging them to develop a concern for others and for the world in general, assisting them in their own search for meaning and purpose in life. The children participate in daily acts of Collective Worship and the school has close links with The church of St Mary, St Cuthburga and All Saints in the village of Witchampton.

Intent

Our curriculum equips pupils with theological and philosophical literacy. We want pupils to develop a solid base of knowledge about religions, particularly Christianity as the main religious tradition of Great Britain, but including teachings and practices of other principal religious and non-religious worldviews represented in this country. We also focus on developing their empathy and compassion, as well as the ability to evaluate and analyse, ask and answer challenging questions, and express their ideas and insights. Our RE promotes pupils' spiritual, moral social and cultural development and also contributes to the development of British values such as tolerance.

Each unit we teach is called an enquiry. A 4-step model, of engagement, investigation, evaluation and expression, develops through each enquiry.

We want our curriculum to empower children to see RE as more than just a subject, and to instead see it as intertwined within our values and ideas in our school and community.

Implementation

Content covered in RE across the school ensures a wide range of worldviews are covered. Each topic is carefully thought out to ensure progression throughout the child's RE journey through the school. As a Church of England school, we aim for children to explore Christianity each year, whilst also experiencing perspectives of non-Christian world views.

We use the Understanding Christianity and Emmanuel RE schemes to supplement our planning and learning, aiming to respond to the children's thoughts and questions. We start each topic with an enquiry question for the children to engage with, before moving on to investigating more about a particular aspect of a worldview, which allows for the children to not only learn new things, but to delve deeper into applying this knowledge further, making connections and understanding the impact on those that follow the world view being studied.

Teachers have identified the key knowledge areas and skills within each religion and these show progression throughout the school. Each lesson and new topic involves revisiting previous learning, ensuring greater confidence for pupils and opportunities for reflection. This reflection is a crucial part of RE learning as it helps children foster their own opinions and ideas, but also for teachers to respond to children's needs and questions.

Lessons are designed to challenge all pupils and to help children to explore their own concepts and ideas. RE is a key connector to individual spirituality and allowing time for this to grow is important. All aspects of RE respect the school's commitment to inclusion, and reinforces the importance of British Values.

Where appropriate, we make cross-curricular links so that learning is repeated in several contexts and children are given opportunities to recall knowledge and skills, strengthening their long-term memory. This also applies to our Collective Worship whereby knowledge and concepts are reflected.

Learning and teaching in RE is interactive and practical, allowing opportunities for children to work independently, in pairs and in groups of various sizes both inside and outside of the classroom. Teachers address the varying needs of all learners, designing ways in for the learning, to suit all learners and also ensuring an appropriate level of challenge to develop deeper thinking for learners. Outcomes of work are regularly monitored to ensure that they reflect understanding of the key identified knowledge.

In the Early Years Foundation Stages (EYFS) RE is infused throughout the child's day to day life in the classroom. Although it is taught explicitly to the children, many important aspects of the RE curriculum can be found throughout the Prime and Specific Areas: Personal, Social and Emotional Development; Communication and Language; Understanding the World. The children are encouraged to explore their own ideas through play and investigating our natural world.

Impact

Through the quality first teaching of RE taking place we will see the impact of the subject in different ways.

Pupil questionnaires are an important way of evidencing the impact of quality RE teaching. This shows that children are confident and able to talk about what they have learnt in RE using subject specific vocabulary and ideas. Dialogue with children also demonstrates that they enjoy RE and are able to see RE as more than just a subject in school. Outcomes in RE books evidence a broad and balanced RE curriculum and demonstrate the children's discussion and ideas. Learning is of good quality and demonstrates pupils are acquiring knowledge, skills and vocabulary in an appropriate sequence. Through RE, children will link learning to our school values and British Values enabling them to influence the decisions they make in their own lives, and that of their community, in the future. Assessments and monitoring will show standards in RE will be high and will match standards in other subject areas.