



Our RE Curriculum

The principal aim of RE in our school is to enable pupils to hold balanced and informed conversations about religion and belief.

Our RE curriculum is based on the 'Understanding Christianity' resource and the 'Dioceses of Leeds and York Diocesan Syllabus for Religious Education', and is planned on a 2 year rolling programme so that children are able to build on prior learning without repeating content. Core questions, relating to Christianity and the Muslim, Hindu and Sikh religions such as 'What is the Good News that Jesus Brings?' and 'Who is a Muslim and what do they believe?' are identified and mapped across the year and the Key Stage. These themes may be revisited over time so children can make links and integrate their new learning with what they already know.

Our RE is underpinned by 4 core elements, which are woven together to provide breadth and balance within teaching and learning about religions and beliefs:

- **Making sense of beliefs** - Identifying and making sense of core religious and non-religious concepts and beliefs; understanding what these beliefs mean within their traditions; recognising how and why sources of authority are used, expressed and interpreted in different ways, and developing skills of interpretation.
- **Making sense of the text** – Developing skills of reading and interpretation; understanding how Christians interpret, handle and use biblical texts; making sense of the meanings of texts for Christians
- **Understanding the Impact** - Examining how and why people put their beliefs into action in diverse ways, within their everyday lives, within their communities and in the wider world.
- **Making Connections** - Reasoning about, reflecting on, evaluating and connecting the concepts, beliefs and practices studied; allowing pupils to challenge ideas and the ideas to challenge pupils' thinking; discerning possible connections between these ideas and pupils' own lives and ways of understanding the world.

The Understanding Christianity approach is not just getting pupils to learn what Christians think. Instead, it is about developing skills to help them 'think theologically' alongside learning lots of knowledge about the Bible, Christian belief and practice.

The Diocesan syllabus sets the context for open exploration of religions and beliefs. It offers a structure through which pupils can encounter diverse religious traditions, alongside non-religious worldviews, presenting a broad and flexible strategy that allows for different traditions to be treated with integrity.

From this resource and syllabus, teachers then use the unit plans and decide the exact details of how to deliver the learning to ensure the core knowledge and skills are met. Through their



knowledge of their class they are able to ensure an appropriate level of challenge for the age and stage of the children.

Reading is planned within RE so that children have the opportunity to read religious texts: these may be from the Bible, when studying Christianity or other key texts from other world religions. Key vocabulary is taught and reinforced so that children can use these fluently in their thinking, speaking and writing.

Teaching and learning expectations for RE:

- Appropriate technical and theological language will be used in talking and writing.
- Carefully selected, high quality materials and artefacts from the religions studied.
- Ensure clear links to prior RE topics that children have studied.

RE in the Early Years Foundation Stage

In the EYFS, RE is covered through Understanding the World: one of the specific areas of learning:

Children at the expected level of development at the end of the Reception year will:

- Understand that some places are special to members of their community.
- Recognise that people have different beliefs and celebrate special times in different ways.

As well as this area of learning, well-planned RE in the EYFS also supports children's learning and development in the areas of Communication and Language, and Literacy.

Provision for RE in the EYFS may include learning about celebrations from a range of cultures and religions, such as Diwali, Chinese New Year, Christmas, Eid. Stories and customs will be shared with the children, as well as music, costumes, food and special places/ places of worship.