

The Intent, Implementation and Impact of our Religious Education Curriculum

Aims for Religious Education from *Living Difference IV*, the Agreed Syllabus for Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight

In accordance with the Trust Deed of this Church School we aim to develop children's knowledge, awareness and understanding of the Christian faith and encourage understanding, respect and tolerance of other faiths.

R.E. lessons are planned and taught in line with the Agreed Syllabus for Hampshire – "Living Difference IV (Revised 2021)". From January 2017 'Understanding Christianity' has been largely used for the Christian element of the RE curriculum.

Aims:

1. To nurture the spiritual life of all through the curriculum, of which RE is a part, at all times honouring profoundly held beliefs and acknowledging that each person is a person of worth.
2. To rehearse the life of the faith community of which the school is part, encouraging the development of knowledge and self-awareness and the growth of moral behaviour.
3. To develop the Spiritual, Moral, Cultural and Social aspects of RE in order to create an understanding, empathy and knowledge about our multi faith world, fostering tolerance and respect for others.
4. To encourage and develop children's interest and opinions about concepts that are common to themselves and religions.
5. To develop knowledge and understanding of the beliefs and practices of some of the other principle religions of Britain.
6. To develop and express their own values, spirituality and beliefs through developing a reflective approach to life.

Intent

- At Swanmore Primary school, we believe that it is important for all our pupils to learn from and about religion, so that they can understand the world around them.
- The aim of Religious Education in our school is to help children to acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and three other principal religions represented in Great Britain, Hindu traditions, Jewish traditions and Muslim traditions; to appreciate the way that religious beliefs shape life and behaviour, develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues and enhance their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- Using our spiral RE curriculum children will experience religions and non-religious world views before they meet them in more depth during the RE units on their RE learning journey at our school. World Faiths Day each year allows children to also explore other religions such as Buddhist traditions, and non-religious world views such as Humanism.
- It plays an important role, along with all other curriculum areas, particularly PSHE, in promoting social awareness and understanding in our children. We encourage our pupils to ask questions about the world and to reflect on their own beliefs, values and experiences. We include and promote British values, ensuring that children are aware of their rights and responsibilities as UK citizens.
- Our curriculum is designed to encourage enquiry, contextualisation, evaluation, communication and application of each topic area.

Implementation

- We use the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education, Living Difference IV developed by Hampshire as the basis for our curriculum.
- Each half term children study one unit of R.E. These units are planned to ensure there is a breadth and variety across the school. Each unit has a focus: A concepts- examples of concepts common to all people, B concepts- examples of concepts shared by many religions or C concepts- examples of concepts distinctive to particular religions.
- R.E. is taught weekly.
- There are no presumptions made as to the religious backgrounds and beliefs and values of the children and the staff. We value the religious background of all members of the school community and hope that this will encourage individuals to share their own experiences with others freely. All religions and their communities are treated with respect and sensitivity and we value the links, which are, and can be made between home, school, and a faith community. We are extremely fortunate that members of both of our local churches, St Barnabas and The Methodist Church, regularly visit our school to carry out whole school worships and teach as part of the R.E. curriculum.
- We acknowledge that each religion studied can contribute to the education of all our pupils. We promote teaching in Religious Education that stresses open enquiry and first-hand experiences wherever possible for both staff and children.

Impact

- The children school enjoy learning about other religions and why people choose, or choose not to follow a religion.
- Through their R.E. learning, the children are able to make links between their own lives and those of others in their community and in the wider world, developing an understanding of other people's cultures and ways of life. As such, R.E. is invaluable in an ever changing and shrinking world.
- Using P4C (Philosophy for Children) style questioning the children develop the ability to question at a deeper level not only themselves, but with compassion towards others too.
- Lessons and worship have a direct impact on children's lives and the ethos of the school.