



Why RE?



Faith and Wellbeing

A message from Mrs Bush and Miss Ludford, our R.E. leads: We believe that RE plays a vital role in primary education and should be cherished. It supports children to be more open and aware of the world around them and encourage them to be critical thinkers. In today's modern society, it is vital that children are exposed to all aspects of world religions so they can understand similarities and differences in the lives of people of different faiths. By encouraging them to ask questions, we can broaden their views which will allow them to become tolerant and respectful individuals in an ever-changing world.

Design and Do

RE is delivered through the agreed Southend Syllabus with explicit lessons being taught once a week in KS1 and 2. Children from EYFS to Y6 explore RE through the three main strands of Believing, Expressing and Living. British values and SMSC are interwoven into our RE curriculum. Key skills such as investigating, applying, reflecting and evaluating are explored and practiced within RE lessons. Each layered lesson in KS1 and 2 begins with a 'Big Question' that focuses the learning on a particular strand. Children are encouraged to be inquisitive and curious, review sources in front of them and challenge/deepen their understanding over time.

In the Early Years, children begin to develop a positive sense of themselves and others and learn how to form positive and respectful relationships. This will be developed through encounters of religions and world views through special people, books, times, places and objects and by visiting places of worship. Children listen to and talk about stories and use all their senses to explore beliefs, practices and forms of expression. Children are encouraged to ask questions and reflect on their own feelings and experiences using their imagination and curiosity to develop their awe and wonder of the world they live in.

In KS1 children develop their knowledge and understanding of religions and world views recognising their local, national and global contexts. Children are introduced to basic subject specific vocabulary and encouraged to raise questions and begin to express their own views in response to the 'Big Questions'. Children learn about Christians and Muslims/Jewish people. Who they are, what they believe, what is sacred to them, how they celebrate together, what does it mean to be a Christian, Muslim/Jewish person, how should we care about others and why is this important?

In KS2 children extend their knowledge and understanding of religions and world views recognising their local and national and global contexts. Children are introduced to an extended range of sources and subject specific vocabulary. Children are encouraged to be curious and to ask increasingly courageous and challenging questions about religion, belief, values and human life. Children express themselves in response to materials/sources they engage with, identify key information, relevant examples and give responses that support their ideas and views. Children learn about Christians, Muslims, Hindus and Jewish people. Other religious groups may also be included. Children learn about what different people believe about God, why the Bible is important to Christians and why Jesus was inspiring some people, why people pray, which celebrations/festivals are important to people, significant events in a person's life journey, what it means to be a person of faith in today's modern Britain and what we can learn from other religions about what is right/wrong?

Progression across the three main strands of Believing, Expressing and Living are carefully mapped out across each stage from EYFS to the end of KS2 ensuring key concepts are revisited and explored further. Children are assessed against milestones within each stage indicating a basic, advanced or deeper knowledge attained by the end of each unit.

Difference

Our children learn to be active citizens by appreciating and respecting the beliefs and values of world religions. They understand how belief influences how people live their lives and can explain why festivals and celebrations are so important.

Children are encouraged to ask questions and to listen to the thoughts and opinions of others in order to develop their wider world understanding. They are exposed to a rich variety of experiences which will enable them to grow into well-rounded individuals.

Our children are effective contributors who make connections and care for others and the world, supporting change. Through their active contributions they support local and global communities and the world around them.

'Achieving Excellence Together'

Reflections and Celebrations

Year 1 learnt about the Bible and its importance for Christians. They looked at the faith communities of Christianity and Islam and considered what people of these faiths believe, using stories to support understanding.

Year 2 children have learnt about what Christian and Jewish people believe. The Reception, Year 1 and 2 children all made Christingles and understood what each part represented. It was great to see the children being able to explain the meaning behind an important Christian tradition.

Year 3 and 4 covered different aspects of RE and learned what different people believe about God, why the Bible is important for Christians today and how stories of Jesus inspire to some people. Stories shared included the Feeding of the 5000 and The Good Samaritan which taught children about the importance of caring for each other. Many Festivals were covered including Yom Kippur, Harvest Festival and Christmas. Year 3 enjoyed a trip to a St Michaels and All Angels Church and learnt about the Bible and its importance to Christians.

Year 5 and 6 have learnt about what religions say to us when life gets hard, focussing on what Jesus would do in different situations. They learnt about how individuals may have different opinions and how to be respectful of this. They learnt about Christianity, Islam, Buddhism and Humanism.

Courageous Conversations

We have been having thought provoking conversations in lessons and challenging ourselves consider the 'Big Questions' in the world. Conversations are respectful and interesting, enabling us to talk about 'hot topics' around religions, beliefs and attitudes. Questions such as...How did the world come to be? Is there a meaning to life? If so, what could it be? What happens after we die?' Many such questions are central to religions and worldviews, meaning that RE is a natural place to explore big questions and responses to them with children. Children are encouraged to be excellent young philosophers.

What children say about their RE lessons:

KS1:

"I loved learning about the Christingle and what all the parts mean. Making one myself was special."

"I liked learning about and making a dreidel to find out how Jewish children play with them."

KS2:

"Going on a trip to the church with my year 3 teachers helped me see how important churches are"

"I enjoy learning about different Religions"

"In R.E. I learn about different faiths and that helps me to understand my own feelings."

"In R.E my teacher helps prepare me to show kindness in the wider world."

Useful websites:

<https://www.interfaith.org.uk/activity/religious-education>
<https://www.natre.org.uk>

RE Gallery



