



A message from Mrs Dutton , our R.E. lead:

I 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 Purpose

Religious Education (RE) contributes dynamically to children's education by provoking challenging questions about meaning and purpose in life, beliefs about God, ultimate reality, issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human. At Darlinghurst, children learn about and from world religions and worldviews in local, national and global contexts to discover, explore and consider different answers to these questions. Children are equipped with the knowledge and understanding of world religions which enables them to develop their ideas, values and identities. We want the children to become active global citizens and to appreciate and celebrate similarities and difference amongst faiths through mutual tolerance and respect.

Our curriculum is broken down into three aspects – believing, expressing and living. Believing teaches children the main beliefs of each religion. Expressing allows children to learn about festivals and celebrations and the different ways in which faith can be expressed. Living gives our children the opportunities to explore how religion is followed during daily lives and learn about rituals such as prayer. Darlinghurst welcomes visitors from local faith groups to share their experiences and knowledge and to engage our children in valuable first-hand information. Places of worship are also visited in order to help bring learning to life and allow our children to become aware of different faiths within their communities.

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.

'Achieving Excellence Together'

RE Reflections

Autumn
This term, children in Year 1 learnt about the Bible and its importance for Christians. They have looked at the faith communities of Christianity and Islam and considered what people of these faiths believe, using stories to support understanding. Our Year 2 children have learnt about what Christian and Jewish people believe, with a visitor adding to their enjoyment of learning about important food in the Jewish faith. The 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. Children in Year 3 and 4 covered different aspects of RE and learned aspects of why the Bible is important for Christians today and how stories of Jesus inspire to some people. Stories were shared

including the Good Samaritan which taught children about the importance of caring for each other. Festivals covered across the year including Christmas and Eid.

Year 5 and 6 learnt about what religions say to us when life gets hard, focussing on what Jesus would do in different situations. Our Year 6 children learnt about the Holocaust and thought about why it is important to remember what happened for the future.

Pupils in KS1 have said:

"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."

Pupils in KS2 have said:

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

"I like visitors who tell us about their own lives so that I can compare how they live with my own life."

Spring

Children in EYFS learnt about spring festivals around the world with stories, images and symbols included throughout the continuous provision. Easter was celebrated with the story of Jesus, hot cross buns and eggs that the children could count and experience in creative ways.

In KS1, children in Year 1 learnt about what makes Christian and Muslim places sacred and how Christian and Jewish people celebrate sacred times. Our Year 2 children developed their understanding of what they can learn from holy books and how and why Christian and Muslim people celebrate spring festivals. In KS2, children in Year 3 thought about why people pray and important religious festivals for Christians with Year 4 children looking at life as a journey and discussing significant experiences within this and important religious festivals for Muslim communities.

For Year 5 their focus was to discuss the world view idea that if God is everywhere, why is it important to go to a place of worship? As well as this, they learnt about why religious festivals are important to Hindu communities, with Year 6 children learning about important festivals for Jewish people. Year 6 also thought about a world view idea of expressing belief through art and architecture, charity and generosity.

Summer

Children in EYFS have learnt about Eid and looked at different Mehndi pattern designs.

In KS1 children have thought about what it means to belong to Christian, Muslim and Jewish faith communities and why it matters that we care for others and the world, linking learning about charity, saying thank you and being eco-friendly. The Year 1 children planned and then invited the Year 6 play leaders to a special celebration to thank them for teaching and playing playground games at lunchtimes during the year.

In KS2 children have learnt about what it means to follow a faith in Britain today, including right and wrong, with Year 3 focussing on the Christian faith, Year 4 the Hindu faith and Year 5 the Muslim faith. Year 4 also incorporated the charitable work of Marcus Rashford into their learning, talking about how his background influenced his actions. Children in Year 6 have thought about what matters most to Christians and Humanists and were visited by Mr Cauchi from the St Vincent Centre in Southend. He talked about how the charity helps vulnerable people and inspired the children so much that some volunteered at the centre.

Pupils in KS1 have said:

"I liked learning about what Charlie, a Jewish boy could and could not do on his special day."

"My teacher helps me to understand what other people believe."

Pupils in KS2 have said:

"I don't have a faith but it is good to learn about them so I can follow them if I wish to."

"I like to learn about different faiths so I can respect how they pray in their special buildings."

Useful websites

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

<https://www.natre.org.uk>

RE Gallery

