



Kidmore End CE Primary School Religious Education Curriculum

Intent

At Kidmore End CE Primary School, we hold a strong commitment to the principles of Christianity; religion and beliefs inform our values and these are reflected in what we say and how we behave. Our Religious Education curriculum has been carefully designed to include biblical stories of journeys to faith, kindness, curiosity, resilience and commitment, which reflect both our core values, and the challenges our children will face on their own learning journeys as they strive to be the very best they can be. These values are an integral part of our Religious Education curriculum and help to develop children's knowledge and understanding of the religions and beliefs that form part of contemporary society.

Through our curriculum children will:

- gain a secure knowledge and understanding of the beliefs, practices and history of Christianity; know a range of stories from the Bible and their chronology
- begin to explore other faiths and perspectives (Judaism, Islam, Hinduism)
- express curiosity about fundamental questions of life
- understand and use religious language; recognise some religious symbols
- reflect on belief, practice, values and tradition in order to understand their influence on the individual, on community life and on culture (including spiritual, moral, social and cultural aspects of life)
- understand that for some questions there are no right or wrong answers
- make informed responses to religious and moral issues
- identify the relationship between religious beliefs, human responsibility, global issues and the natural world

Our Religious Education curriculum asks challenging questions about the ultimate meaning and purpose of life; beliefs about God, the self and the nature of reality; issues of right and wrong, and what it means to be human. It develops pupils' knowledge and understanding of Christianity, of other principal religions, of religious traditions and world-views. Religious Education also contributes to our pupils' personal development and wellbeing and to community cohesion by promoting mutual respect and tolerance in a diverse society.

Implementation

Religious Education is provided in accordance with the Oxfordshire Diocese Agreed Syllabus and on the most recent practice and educational thinking. Our RE curriculum reflects the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are mainly Christian, but also takes into account the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain. Teachers plan using units from the Oxford Diocesan Scheme, supplemented with the units from the Understanding Christianity resource, which is designed to support teachers in teaching specifically about Christianity. The sequence of units has been designed so that pupils' skills, understanding and knowledge are developed throughout the primary years, enabling them to make connections between different units of learning and to engage in a deep level of critical thinking and personal reflection by the end of Year 6. In Key Stage 1, the content is primarily focused on Christianity, with some reference to Judaism. In Key Stage 2, in addition to Christianity there is teaching on Hinduism (in Year 4) and Islam (in Year 5). Year 6 content draws ideas from all these together in multi-faith units.

Religious Education is taught through an engaging, enquiry-based approach, which provides opportunities for all pupils to explore questions, experiences and concepts related to an understanding of the principal faiths in Britain; and to consider how these fit with their own identity and personal experiences. Lessons are centred on key questions, which pupils respond to through a range of activities including:

- handling artefacts
- exploring sacred texts
- using imaginative play or drama to express feelings and ideas
- responding to images, games, stories, art, music and dance
- meeting visitors from local religious communities
- making visits to religious places of worship where possible, and where not, making use of videos and the internet
- taking part in whole school events (Harvest Festival, Christmas Services, school performances)
- participating in moments of quiet reflection
- using ICT to further explore religion and belief globally
- comparing religions and worldviews through discussion
- debating and communicating religious belief, worldviews and philosophical ideas and answering and asking ultimate questions posed by these

Religious Education is taught as a weekly lesson but also occasionally as a larger block of lessons if teachers feel this will have a more positive impact on learning. There is also some additional cross-curricular coverage of RE including teaching through other subjects, such as history, whole school events, assemblies and collective worship. In Early Years, curriculum units are taught as part of continuous provision throughout the year, with the exception of the Christmas and Easter units, which are taught at the relevant point in the year.

Religious Education lessons teach and develop the following specific skills:

- Asking and answering questions
- Analysing texts
- Examining artefacts
- Describing and analysing behaviours
- Making comparisons
- Identifying and explaining connections
- Giving reasons
- Explaining impact
- Using evidence
- Drawing conclusions
- Debate and dialogue

Impact

Our engaging, high challenge, well sequenced curriculum and enquiry based approach to learning encourages pupils to be curious and to ask increasingly challenging questions regarding religion, faith, values and human life. Pupils have a secure knowledge of principal religious beliefs (Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, and Islam), language and traditions. They are able to express their own ideas in response to the material they engage with and are able to give coherent reasons to support their ideas and views. They understand that people may choose or choose not to follow a religion and that a person's religious beliefs can shape their actions in many contexts including school, the local area and the wider world. Pupils can identify connections between the beliefs and practices studied and demonstrate our school values by being respectful of different religions, cultures and ways of life.

Our Religious Education curriculum develops skills that are progressive, transferable to other areas of the curriculum, and contribute to spiritual, cultural, moral and social development. Through carefully sequenced lessons, investigations and reflections on fundamental questions, pupils are able to expand their knowledge of a range of religions and to develop their own personal values and identities.