



Whitchurch Primary School

Religious Education

Implementation

Teaching & Learning Rationale

The school has created its own bespoke RE curriculum in line with the Oxfordshire LA Agreed Syllabus; we have developed units of work for each year group to progress understanding about the Jewish, Islamic, Hindu and Sikh world religions whilst delivering 'broadly Christian' content in RE lessons.

RE is taught to each year group separately in one timetabled lesson each week. The focus of an RE unit of work will always be based upon a specific concept / key question taken from our long term planning document. Medium term and lesson plans are available to support our teachers in a Google Classroom. Each term one such concept / key question will be taught to each year group (although the subject focus may change at half term for some topics). The question/concept will be investigated in such a way that the children have an opportunity to explore their current understanding from experiences they have had to give a generic overview, before we focus more in depth, usually from the viewpoint of a particular religion or belief system.

Lessons should not only support the children with embedding their RE knowledge, but also contribute to their oracy and critical thinking skills. Exposure to and analysis of religious texts we use can also enhance their reading, comprehension and inference skills. Learning is not always recorded in individual books - some classes may have a floor book, whilst others may record thoughts for a display.

In the final lesson of the term/half term, we evaluate the key question again in light of new knowledge acquired and the development of a wider understanding, and pupils have further opportunities to embed their own reflections on the learning. Teachers will assess learning against outcomes in the online INSIGHT portal.

Our focus for lesson content is on: belief systems; expressing belief and living as someone with or without belief. We also introduce the concept of people choosing to have no religion, humanist or alternative views, as well as differences in belief within the same religion. This ensures that the children revisit prior learning about different

major world religions throughout the school to build on their previous enquiries. Learning about aspects of the major Christian festivals of Christmas and Easter are built upon throughout the child's primary school journey.

The RE scheme we have developed allows teachers the freedom to plan with detail and attention to their individual children. Learning is scaffolded, and any individual needs can be supported where necessary. Children judged to be working at greater depth can be challenged to ensure that they are being given the opportunities to enrich their learning further.

We actively encourage our staff to foster relationships with our local clergy and religious leaders. We aim to ensure that all children visit the local CofE church each year and visit 2 other places of worship, or have visitors or virtual visits/visitors before the children leave us in year 6.