



RE at Woodlands Park Primary School



Intent

Our aim is for learners to develop an understanding of different values, morals and beliefs. They will learn the principles of the different religions including Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and non-religious worldviews. We aim for children to develop their mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs.

The principal aim of Religious Education in the Devon and Torbay syllabus 2019 is to:

'Explore what people believe and what difference this makes to how they live, so that pupils can gain the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to handle questions raised by religion and belief, reflecting on their own ideas and ways of living.'

Implementation

In our school, we choose to deliver Religious Education using Discovery RE, the enquiry approach, to deepen children's critical thinking skills through greater subject knowledge and also to allow their own spiritual development.

From Foundation through to Year 6, six lessons will usually be taught every half term. The children across the school will work on the following units of work, with each encounter increasing in complexity and reinforcing previous learning.

Each unit has an over-arching enquiry question and this is explored with a four step process:

Engagement - How can I relate to the underpinning concept in my own world?

Investigation - What do I need to learn about the religion in order to answer the big question?

Evaluation - How well can I apply this knowledge to the big question using critical thinking/evaluation skills?

Expression - Can I express what difference this enquiry has made to me, my thinking and my starting point?

The scheme of work has been modified to ensure it is in line with the Devon and Torbay agreed syllabus and therefore the following coverage will be taught:

In Reception - Children will encounter Christianity and other faiths, as part of their growing sense of self, their own community and their place within it.

Key Stage 1 - Pupils study Christianity, Judaism and Islam.

Key Stage 2 - Pupils study Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism.

Sensitive and controversial issues are certain to arise in learning from real-life experience. Teachers are prepared to handle personal issues arising from the work, to deal sensitively with, and to follow up appropriately, disclosures made in a group or individual setting. Teachers will take all reasonable, practical steps to ensure that, where political or controversial issues are brought to pupils' attention, they are offered a balanced presentation of opposing views.

Opportunities are provided for staff to identify individual training needs and relevant support is provided, drawing on staff expertise and external agencies available.

Impact

Conduct - Improving children's reflection and empathy and challenging children to think evaluatively about big questions, before reflecting on and expressing their own thoughts.

Outcomes – Children's critical thinking skills can be developed and their motivation to learn will be increased. Their knowledge and understanding of, and empathy with people and their beliefs, religious or otherwise, will be also be enhanced.