

Religious Education (RE)

At Thistly Meadow Primary School, our children are THEOLOGISTS!

RE Intent

Our intent is to support our children in developing an outstanding level of religious understanding and knowledge. We aim to do this through engagement with a range of ultimate questions about the meaning and significance of existence. We want our children to ask significant and highly reflective questions about religion and demonstrate an excellent understanding of issues related to the nature, truth and value of religion.

Above all, we want our children to develop a respect for other beliefs and religions and appreciate and celebrate the diverse world in which they live. We want to equip children with not only the minimum statutory requirements of the Religious Education National Curriculum but to prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

RE Implementation

- At Thistly Meadow, RE is taught on a weekly basis.
- We have developed a progression of skills with each year group, which enables pupils to build on and develop their knowledge and skills each year.
- In order to support children in their ability to 'know more and remember more' there are regular opportunities to review the learning taken place in previous topics as well as previous lessons.
- At the start of each topic, children will review previous learning and will have the opportunity to share what they already know about a current topic.
- Effective use of education visits are planned, to enrich and enhance the pupil's learning experiences within the RE curriculum.
- Teachers use highly effective Assessment for Learning (AFL) at different points in each lesson to ensure misconceptions are highlighted and addressed.
- Effective modelling by teachers ensures that children are able to achieve their learning objective, with misconceptions addressed within it.
- Through using a range of assessment tools, differentiation is facilitated by teachers, to ensure that each pupil can access the RE curriculum.
- Children are given clear success criteria/ steps to success, in order to achieve the Learning Objective with differing elements of independence.
- Pupils are regularly given the opportunity for self or peer assessment, which will then be used to plan subsequent learning.

To support the delivery of this, teachers have access to resources published by the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) and Understanding Christianity Today.

Children are taught to understand and respect the importance of religious beliefs in the world around them. Christianity is taught in every year group, with Christmas and Easter

given new treatments each year, developing the learning in a progressive way. Each year group also learns one additional faith, as well as non-religious worldviews such as Humanism, as recommended by the Department for Education. These are mapped out in our long term plan, so that Christianity and all the other main faiths from Great Britain are represented in our curriculum.

The syllabus aims to allow pupils to explore themes and concepts within religion drawing on beliefs from a range of different faiths and world views.

RE Impact

We aim to ensure that the RE curriculum is challenging, dynamic and relevant to pupils of all ages – that is why an enquiry approach was implemented, encouraging higher-order thinking and allowing our children to explore in a way that is meaningful to them, inform planning, preparation, differentiation and address misconceptions within that lesson, or for the next lesson.

EYFS

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum supports children's understanding of Religious Education through the planning and teaching of 'Understanding the World'. In the EYFS, pupils learning centres around three focus festivals - Diwali, Christmas and Chinese New Year. Children are encouraged to use their imagination and curiosity to develop their appreciation of, and wonder at, the world in which they live. Exploring others views, cultures and beliefs, supports children in developing their views and beliefs about themselves, their family and community. In finding out about others, young children are encouraged to reflect on belief, culture and practice and explore faith through observing festivals and celebrations, sharing stories, visuals, toys and puppets, handling real artefacts, role play, books and discussion.