



Intent, Implementation and Impact Statement

Religious Education

Intent

At Rotherhithe Primary School we believe it is important that all of our pupils learn from different religions, beliefs, values and traditions while exploring their own beliefs and questions of meaning. The aim of Religious Education in our school is to provide children with the opportunity to share their experiences and to listen to the ideas of others without making judgements. Our community is culturally diverse and our RE curriculum is planned to reflect this and include opportunities to celebrate our diversity. Our pupils learn that there are many religions represented in Great Britain and that they can develop their own views as believers or nonbelievers. Our curriculum has been developed with the belief that Religious Education should play a central role in the promotion of the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils and should provide a context for all pupils to learn what it is to become an active citizen. Through the teaching of Religious Education we also give our children the experience to visit different places of worship and also invite leaders of different faiths to visit our school.

Religious education plays an important part of the wider curriculum, particularly PSHCE and Philosophy, promoting social awareness and understanding in our children. We provide opportunities for children to ask questions about the world so that they can begin to reflect on their own beliefs, values and experiences. Our curriculum is designed to encourage creativity, imagination, enquiry, independent ideas, debate and discussion in an open and inclusive environment. Through our teaching we promote British values, ensuring that children are aware of their rights and responsibilities as UK citizens.

Implementation

At Rotherhithe Primary pupils learn about the six main religions: Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Judaism, Sikhism and Buddhism. Lessons are planned using the Southwark Agreed Scheme of Work. We celebrate diversity and embrace the British values which we impart to our pupils through mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs. There are no presumptions made as to the religious backgrounds and beliefs of the children and the staff. We value the religious background of all members of the school community and encourage individuals to share their own experiences with others freely. All religions and their communities are treated with respect and sensitivity and we value the links, which are made between home, school, and a faith community.

Each year group explores one "Big Question" about religion throughout the year. Each term, children explore their question in the context of one of the world's major religions, as well as looking at it from the tradition of secularism. The "Big Question" allows children to learn about religions in a creative way, while providing them with the skills to talk about RE in a sensitive and respectful way. Children will learn through different units of study to support the "Big Question" and each unit will be accompanied by a Knowledge Organiser which details the key facts, vocabulary and skills for each unit.

Our "Big Questions" are as follows:

Year 1 – What does it mean to belong?

Year 2 – Can stories change people?

Year 3 – How are symbols and sayings important in religion?

Year 4 – What is special to me and the people in my community?

Year 5 – How do beliefs influence actions?

Year 6 – How important are similarities and differences between and within religions?

Within the Early Years children begin to explore the world of religion in terms of special people, books, times, places and objects, and visiting places of worship. Each unit focuses on an individual question per unit, rather than a 'Big Question'. Children listen to and talk about stories. They are introduced to specialist words and use their senses in exploring religious beliefs, practices and forms of expression. They reflect upon their own feelings and experiences. They use their imagination and curiosity to develop their appreciation and wonder of the world in which they live.



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Impact

The children at Rotherhithe Primary School enjoy learning about other religions and why people choose, or choose not to follow a religion. Through our high quality Religious Education curriculum, the children are able to make links between their own lives and those of others in their community and in the wider world, developing an understanding of other people's cultures and ways of life. Our curriculum is mapped out to demonstrate progression and children will make at least good progress throughout their time at Rotherhithe. Prior learning is revisited at the start of each lesson and children review the agreed successes at the end of every session. Summative assessment is completed at the end of each unit: pupils are asked what they have learned comparative to their starting points the objective on their knowledge organisers. Throughout the term, the leadership team carry out book looks and gather pupil' voices in order to monitor the quality of teaching and learning across the school. Children leave Rotherhithe with the knowledge that being informed about Religious Education is invaluable in our changing world to promote inclusivity and community cohesion. They will have developed a positive ethos within Rotherhithe Primary School and their community around them, demonstrating mutual understanding and respect.