

Religious Education

Intent

Our RE curriculum at Millfields First School is provoking, challenging, and questioning; and encourages children to develop a deep knowledge and understanding of Christianity alongside other faiths – Islam Judaism and Hinduism, without prejudice. It aims to provide opportunities for the children to develop both a sense of belonging within their own local community and to develop a growing awareness of where they fit within the wider world by exploring a range of national and global issues, so enabling them to discover, explore and consider different answers and reasons to questions raised. Themes and related activities are well planned, adaptive, and engaging so offering opportunities for different learning styles, considering the varied needs of our children, and enabling all to attain and achieve well in RE. Children are given opportunities to develop a range of skills including enquiry and questioning techniques, interpretation, evaluation, and reflection. Children develop their confidence through the exploration of their own values and beliefs whilst considering those of others. Participation in philosophical discussions and debates is encouraged in a classroom environment that promotes mutual respect and one in which children feel safe and heard without judgement.

Implementation

RE is taught in one-hour weekly lessons in Key Stages one and two. In the Early Years the children learn about different festivals throughout the year, beginning to recognise similarities and differences and making links between Christian festivals and those of other faiths. They develop a growing sense of self, their own community, and their place within it.

At the beginning of each topic, children revisit and discuss their prior knowledge and understanding. With the introduction of a new topic question, children are asked what they already know and understand, what they think they might be learning next and to consider questions they want answers to. As knowledge and understanding is constantly revisited and reviewed as children progress through the school, links are made explicit to the children so that their learning is embedded, and they develop a deep understanding of the RE curriculum.

Each year group has access to a range of enrichment activities to help make their RE learning experiences engaging and memorable. This includes having access to original artefacts, visitors coming into school and trips to places of worship that underpin or extend the teaching and learning covered in certain topics.

Impact

Staff have high expectations of all pupils, ensuring that at the end of each year, children should know, apply, and understand RE matters according to the religion they have been studying.

RE is assessed regularly and rigorously through ongoing teacher assessment and end of topic question reviews, this is recorded on our termly Key Stage assessment grids. Through moderation between staff, subject monitoring including pupil voice, we aim to ensure that standards in the teaching and learning in RE remain high.

As each topic is reviewed and revised continuously this ensures concrete learning. Religions are also revisited in each year group being progressive in detail. At Millfields we want the children to be curious, confident learners who will ask questions to clarify their thinking and understanding around religious issues. With a progressive RE curriculum in place, the children remember more and so know more.