

Religious Education at Kenn Church of England Primary School

Religious Education (RE) lessons take place on a weekly basis at Kenn, although the Christian nature of the school means that the subject is also woven into other topic areas and is clearly evident in the life and ethos of each day.

Religion and beliefs inform our values and are reflected in what we say and how we behave.

Religious education provokes challenging questions about the ultimate meaning and purpose of life, beliefs about God, the self and the nature of reality, issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human. It develops pupils' knowledge and understanding of the nature of religion and belief including Christianity, other principal religions, and religious traditions that offer answers to these challenging questions. It offers opportunities for personal reflection and spiritual development. It enhances awareness and understanding of religions and beliefs and the influence of religion on individuals, families, communities and cultures.

Religious Education is taught in a way that reflects the overall aims, values, culture and philosophy of our Church school.

The children are introduced to the beliefs of Christianity and Judaism in the infants and these teachings are built upon as they enter the juniors, together with beliefs of other major world religions.

We ensure that as well as teaching the children knowledge about the different faiths they are also given opportunities to reflect on their own beliefs and appreciate the different viewpoints of others and their peers. We do make sure that there is a distinction between learning about and learning from religion so that personal reflection is not rushed into before spending adequate time learning about each topic. Throughout this process "Big Questions" are encouraged and children are given opportunities to reconsider their initial thinking, extend their enquiry or re-prioritise their questions. In order to provide for this we follow the concepts and enquiry planning model.

The children are engaged through visiting speakers, drama activities, role playing, art work, exploring beliefs in creative and imaginative ways, writing activities, educational visits and studying religious artefacts.

Reflective Areas

At Kenn C of E Primary School our Christian beliefs are reflected across the school. From assemblies and lessons to the way we interact with others on a daily basis, we always aspire to act in a way that demonstrates God's love and concern for each individual.

We understand school life can be extremely busy and that it is important for children to have time and space to reflect on their own beliefs and values. There are also times when we need to approach someone who is infinitely wiser and bigger than we are and our reflective areas in each class and around the school are areas where children can do this.

Teaching and learning style

We promote teaching in Religious Education that stresses open enquiry and first-hand experiences wherever possible for both staff and children. The syllabus is implemented in school by means of a variety of approaches with the emphasis on lively, stimulating lessons involving 'hands-on' experiential learning. Learning in Religious Education may be by means of direct teaching to the class or small groups. Children may look at and handle religious artefacts, hear religious music, prepare and taste food, role play and use of drama, record work in a variety of visual and written forms and visit Churches and other places of worship and of interest. Work in Religious Education builds on the pupils' own experiences and acknowledges the importance of reflection.

The learning environment

The learning environment is of great importance at Kenn C of E Primary School. Religious Education displays around the school and in classrooms should:

- ~ Promote and maintain curiosity
- ~ Provide a stimulus for the Religious focus being taught and learned;
- ~ Create safe environments for children to explore their religious ideas;
- ~ Provide opportunities for children to engage with and evaluate concepts and beliefs;
- ~ Provide access to the resources necessary for children to question, enquire and reflect.
- ~ Celebrate pupils' learning and achievements and showcase Religious Education taking place in school.

Curriculum Enhancement Opportunities

The school has actively seeks to develop visits and visitors linked to RE. We aim for each class to have a visitor or educational visit to support their learning during the course of the school year.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

Those children who under or over achieve are marked by initial on the medium term plans and the teacher plans appropriate work to afford these pupils a measure of success or further challenge through differentiation.

Monitoring, review and evaluation

Monitoring the standard of children's work and the quality of teaching in Religious education is the responsibility of the Religious Education Subject Leader and the Executive Headteacher. The Religious Education Subject Leader is also responsible for supporting colleagues in the teaching of Religious Education, informing staff of developments in the subject and for providing a strategic lead and direction for the subject in the school.

The Religious Education Subject Leader will have specially-allocated time in which to fulfil this role by:

- Lesson observations
- Review of policy
- Collate an overview of curriculum coverage
- Report to governors
- Complete Pupil Voice

The Religious Education Subject Leader provides curriculum review and feedback which will be shared with Governors. The professional development needs of staff are assessed through monitoring and where necessary further training is provided. This may be INSET provided internally or external courses as appropriate.

Our Critical Friend (Link Governors) will also be invited into school to monitor Religious Education. Each year the Critical Friend will complete feedback which will inform future monitoring.

External inspection and advice is undertaken every five years through SIAMS Church School Ofsted, where Religious education will be graded.

CPD

The co-ordinator receives details of appropriate courses and materials from the diocese and advises colleagues respectively. Using established links with the Diocese and SACRE the Subject leader works alongside colleagues to support outstanding practice and cascades current developments in the subject to improve standards.

Curriculum Risk Assessment

Staff are asked to use professional judgment with regard to pupil safety in individual lessons. Where it is deemed necessary, individual lesson risk assessments will be completed. All staff have access to the school Curriculum Health and Safety Guidance in the Staffroom.

Resourcing

We use a range of resources to support the teaching and learning of all the religions taught within school. Children's reference books for Religious Education are kept in the Library and in classrooms. Digital teaching resources are used as appropriate. Information Technology is used for finding material. Artefacts and teaching materials are available in school.

The RE Curriculum Co-ordinator is responsible for maintaining RE resources, and for monitoring their use. The school uses visits and visitors linked to RE.

Links with Other Subjects

We seek every opportunity to develop Religious Education with other areas of the curriculum through our study work approach and holistic planning. Teachers make links with PSHE (Personal Social Health Education) and SMSC (Spiritual Moral Social Cultural Education) and use our 'We Eat Elephants' mental Health training.