

Religious Education



Intent

The curriculum for Religious Education intends to ensure that all pupils know about and understand a range of religions and worldviews, so that they can:

- Describe, explain and analyse beliefs and practices, recognising the diversity which exists within and between communities and amongst individuals.
- Identify, investigate and respond to questions posed, and responses, offered by some of the sources of wisdom found in religions and worldviews
- Appreciate and appraise the nature, significance and impact of different ways and life and ways of expressing meaning. We intend that children express ideas about the nature, significance and impact of religions and worldviews, so that they can:
- Explain reasonably their ideas about how beliefs, practices and forms of expression influence individuals and communities
- Express with increasing discernment their personal reflections and critical responses to questions and teachings about identity, diversity, meaning and value, including ethical issues
- Appreciate and appraise varied dimensions of religion. We intend that the children gain and deploy the skills needed to engage seriously with religions and worldviews, so that they can:
- Find out about and investigate key concepts and questions of belonging, meaning, purpose and truth, responding creatively
- Articulate beliefs, values and commitments clearly in order to explain why they may be important in their own and other people's lives

Implementation

At Willington Primary School, we follow the Derby City and Derbyshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education. This is an agreed syllabus and is a statutory requirement for RE, adopted by the Derbyshire Local Authority. The agreed syllabus has a duty to 'take care that information or knowledge included in the curriculum is conveyed in a pluralistic manner' and 'must accord equal respect to different religious convictions, and to non-religious beliefs'. The term 'religion' encompasses both religious and non-religious beliefs.

Right of withdrawal: This was first granted when religious education was religious instruction, and carried with it connotations of induction into the Christian faith. RE has been very different to this for some time. It is inclusive and wide-ranging, exploring a religious and non-religious worldview. However, in the UK, parents still have the right to withdraw their children from Religious Education lessons on the grounds that they wish to provide their own religious education. This will be the parent's responsibility.

Delivery: At Willington Primary School, RE lessons are taught weekly in each class. We make links with different religious groups in the local community. Religious festivals are also taught within the planned cycle of whole-school assemblies, with additional termly assemblies held and led by visitors from the local Baptist church. The school also organises faith trails in Derby through the Open Centre, where children experience first-hand the culture of a variety of faith groups locally. Learning is accessible to all learners, including SEND and disadvantaged children, and regardless of gender, race, religion, culture, ability or age. Teachers use a wide variety of Religious Education resources, including children's books, teacher's resource books, pictorial resources such as posters, pictures and photographs, videos and religious artefacts.

Impact

The impact of our Religious Education curriculum is that all pupils will have a greater understanding of religions and beliefs, teachings and practices. The children learn from different religions, beliefs, values and traditions while exploring questions of meaning and their own beliefs. They gain and deploy the skills needed to engage seriously with religions and worldviews. Our pupils understand the influence of religion on individuals, families, communities and cultures. They are respectful and sensitive towards others, regardless of their faith and religious beliefs. Finally, the children feel valued as individuals and feel that their beliefs are valued and celebrated.

Attainment is recorded on the end of year reports and discussed during the year at parent/teacher interviews, where relevant. The impact of RE provision is to establish an ethos of mutual respect and tolerance, as part of the British Values shared in our school. Our pupils leave our school with an understanding and appreciation of the diverse world in which they belong and feel secure in their own beliefs and their own sense of self.