

Religious Education

Religious Education

At our school, Religious Education (RE) plays a vital role in developing thoughtful, respectful and reflective young people. Through engaging learning experiences, pupils explore beliefs, values and traditions from a range of religions and worldviews while also developing their own sense of identity and belonging.

RE is closely linked to our wider curriculum, supporting pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC), personal growth and development, and community cohesion. It encourages children to ask meaningful questions about the world around them, celebrate diversity and understand the importance of respect, compassion and responsibility.

These three areas should underpin the breadth of coverage of RE in our schools:

Our Vision for RE

Our RE curriculum aims to:

- Provoke challenging questions about meaning, purpose and truth
- Encourage pupils to explore and reflect upon their own beliefs and values
- Enable children to develop a strong sense of identity and belonging
- Foster respect, empathy and understanding towards others
- Encourage pupils to consider their responsibilities within school, the local community and the wider world
- Celebrate diversity and promote inclusion

Through carefully planned learning opportunities, children begin to recall and name different beliefs, festivals and traditions associated with world religions. They learn to recognise religious symbols, understand their significance and explore how faith influences people's lives and communities.

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The Three Core Areas of RE

Our curriculum is built around three key strands which underpin all teaching and learning in RE:

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development (SMSC)

Children are encouraged to reflect deeply, discuss respectfully and consider their own beliefs and values alongside those of others.

Personal Growth and Development

RE supports children in developing confidence, empathy, resilience and self-awareness as they explore life's big questions.

Community Cohesion

Children learn about different faiths, cultures and traditions, helping them to value diversity and contribute positively to modern Britain.

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Threshold Concepts in RE

Our curriculum is structured around five threshold concepts which deepen pupils' understanding throughout their RE journey.

Understand Beliefs and Teachings

Children learn about the key beliefs, teachings and stories within different religions and worldviews.

Understand Practices and Lifestyles

Pupils explore how faith influences everyday life, traditions, celebrations and ways of living.

Understand How Beliefs Are Conveyed

Children investigate how scriptures, sacred texts, stories, symbols and worship communicate beliefs and values.

Reflect

Pupils consider how religion and belief shape identity, meaning and purpose in people's lives.

Understand Values

Children develop an appreciation of the values that guide individuals, communities and faith groups.

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Our RE Learning Journey

Our RE curriculum is designed to build knowledge progressively from Reception through to Year 6, enabling children to deepen their understanding year upon year.

Reception	Why is the word 'God' so important to Christians	Why is Christmas special for Christians	Being special: where do we belong	Why is Easter special for Christians	Which places are special and why	Which stories are special and why
Year 1	Caring for others	Gifts and Giving	Friendship	Easter and surprises	Religion and rituals	Places of worship
Year 2	Nature and God	Light and Dark	Rules and Routines	Beginning and endings	Ceremonies	Places of worship
Year 3	Hinduism	The Nativity Story	Islam	Good Friday	Sikhism	Judaism
Year 4	Buddhism	People of faith	Christianity	Food and fasting	Pilgrimages	The Bible
Year 5	Worship	The true meaning of Christmas	Peace	Forgiveness	Jesus the Healer	Commitment
Year 6	Humanism	The Christmas Story	Creation stories	Crucifixion	Justice and Freedom	Eternity

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Celebrating Faith and Festivals

As a whole school, we celebrate and learn about a wide range of religious festivals and special events throughout the year. These celebrations help children understand traditions, respect diversity and experience the richness of different cultures and faiths.

Term	Festival 1	Festival 2
Autumn 1	Harvest	Diwali
Autumn 2	Christmas	Hanukkah
Spring 1	Lent	Nirvana Day
Spring 2	Easter	Eid
Summer 1	Sacred Heart of	Vaisakhi
Summer 2	Visit to a Place of Worship	

These celebrations may include assemblies, workshops, storytelling, music, art, visitors and opportunities for reflection.

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Links with PSHE and Kapow RSE

Our RE curriculum works closely alongside our PSHE and Kapow RSE schemes to support the development of the whole child. Through these subjects, pupils learn about:

- Respecting similarities and differences
- Building positive relationships
- Understanding emotions and empathy
- Diversity, inclusion and belonging
- Moral decision making
- Rights, responsibilities and British Values
- Community and citizenship

The strong links between RE, PSHE and Kapow RSE ensure that children develop not only knowledge and understanding, but also the confidence, compassion and emotional literacy needed to thrive in modern society.

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Learning Beyond the Classroom

We enrich our RE curriculum through:

- Visits to places of worship
- Visitors from different faith communities
- Whole-school celebration days
- Reflection and discussion opportunities
- Cross-curricular links with art, music, history and literacy

These experiences help children make meaningful connections between faith, culture and everyday life.

“RE helps children to understand the world, respect others and reflect on what it means to live a good life.”