

RE at St Michael's School

At St. Michael's we want children to love Religious Education. We encourage children and adults to be deep-thinking, caring and considerate citizens who are passionate about and want to make a difference to their school, community and the wider world.

Intent

Our Religious Education curriculum will promote curiosity and intrigue. An exposure to sacred texts, literature, stories and the arts, as well as visits and visitors will provide insight and inspire our children to hold open and honest conversations about religion and beliefs and how they shape our world.

The Bible and religious texts will be the beating heart of our lessons, playing a vital role as we develop and harness children's faith, recognising that our core values of love, honesty and respect can be used to unite groups and communities. Our children will leave Primary school with a sense of awe and wonder of the world around them and their role in it; spreading their wings as champions of diversity, promoters of cultures and courageous advocacy and celebrators of all aspects of life with a 'Lifetime Love for Learning'.

Implementation

As a church school, Christianity forms the foundation for our religious learning. We use Understanding Christianity and Discovery R.E as a basis for all our teaching. This, alongside 5 sessions of collective worship, including a weekly spiritual reflection in class, and daily prayer, drives our Religious Education provision.

Throughout the school year, we teach Religious themes across the whole school where possible. For example, Christian themes such as 'Incarnation' and 'Salvation' are taught at the same time, with skills progressing and key questions developing across the school (from Reception to Year 6). This enables children to learn with and from one another, have shared and meaningful religious experiences together and acts as a means for teachers to continue to reflect on and enhance progression and provision throughout the school.

Early Years is the beginning of our children's religious journey where they explore the different celebrations of world faiths and link these to their own family celebrations. As part of Christianity in Early Years, the children are introduced God, the Bible and The Church. Our children's understanding of Christianity and other world religions deepen as they progress throughout school with different themes taught at specifically planned times in order to increase children's depth of understanding, helping children to commit learning to long-term memory. Importantly, during our study of other world religions, we develop children's understanding of how non-Christian faith supports the development of character, aspirations, hope and courageous advocacy as well as tackling religious stereotypes.

We firmly believe that people's religious journey should begin with themselves. As such, a unit of work will typically begin with children reflecting on situations in their own lives. We then provide children with a key investigative question that forms the basis for our religious learning. Throughout a unit, children will unpick religious texts, investigate its impact on people and make connections to their own lives. From visits to places of worship to interviewing religious leaders, wherever possible, we aim to provide children with rich experiences and visits that enrich their understanding.

Teachers are provided with a Curriculum Map and Knowledge Webs to ensure all children are progressing their Religious Education skills. The Knowledge Webs identify what knowledge and skills to assess and how to do this.

Impact

Our children develop a strong awareness of the world around them and are respectful of the beliefs of others and why they choose, or choose not to follow a religion. Children enjoy the creativity of the curriculum and develop inquisitive minds. They feel safe to learn new things and share their beliefs with others in an accepting environment. Children leave the school with a sense of belonging and have the confidence and skills to make decisions, self-evaluate, make connections, and become lifelong learners.