



St James' Church of England Primary School

Religious Education



Our Christian Values and Pupils' Personal Development

Our curriculum is an important means by which we develop the values of our school in our pupils during their time at St James' Church of England Primary School. When planning and delivering lessons, teachers give attention to our Christian values of **Endurance, Forgiveness, Koinonia, Peace, Thankfulness** and **Trust** which are relevant to the unit of work. Our aim is to encourage positive attitudes to learning, to ourselves as individuals and to other members of our community.

Cultural Capital

Through our curriculum we aim to provide our children with the skills and knowledge they require to be educated citizens with an appreciation of human creativity and achievement throughout human history. With these insights our pupils will have the capacity to be happy, independent, confident individuals able to benefit from and contribute to their local communities and wider society.

Reading

The effective teaching of reading is of paramount importance. Becoming efficient readers enables our children to achieve our other curricular aims much more easily. It is a skill for life. We give the highest priority to the improvement of children's reading




Purpose of Study

The principle aim of the Blackburn Diocesan agreed syllabus for Religious Education is to engage pupils in systematic enquiry into significant human questions which religion and worldviews address, so that they can develop the understanding and skills needed to appreciate and appraise varied responses to these questions, as well as develop responses of their own. It should develop in pupils an aptitude for dialogue so that they can participate positively in our society, with its diverse religions and worldviews. In RE they learn about and from religions in local, national and global contexts, to discover, explore and consider different answers to these questions.



Aims

The threefold aim of RE elaborates the principal aim. The curriculum for RE aims to ensure that all pupils:


1. 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 of life and ways of expressing meaning.




2. Express ideas and insights about the nature, significance and impact of religions and worldviews, so that they can:

-  explain reasonably their ideas about beliefs, practices and forms of expression influence individuals and communities Longshaw Community Junior School Success for all - nothing less
-  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.

3. Gain and deploy the skills need 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
-  enquire into what enables different individuals and communities to live together respectfully for the wellbeing of all
-  articulate beliefs, values and commitments clearly in order to explain why they may be important in their own and other people's lives.







This agreed syllabus requires that all pupils learn from Christianity. In addition, pupils will learn from the principal religions represented in the UK, in line with the law. These are Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism and Judaism. At KS2 our focus is Christians, Muslims, Hindus and Jewish people. Furthermore, children from families where non-religious worldviews are held, are represented in almost all of our classrooms.

Links can be made in collective worship and through other subjects such as English however it is expected that RE be taught in clearly identifiable time and taught each week.

Intent

Our overarching aim at St James' Haslingden, is for our pupils to live life in all its fullness. Offering a well-rounded and balanced curriculum is one way we work towards achieving this and Religious Education provides the perfect platform for children to explore what living a full life might look like for them and the people around them.

Through our Religious Education curriculum, we aim:

-  to engage pupils in inquiry into questions arising from the study of religion and belief, so as to promote their personal, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
-  to provide learners with knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other principal religious traditions and beliefs represented in Great Britain.
-  to develop their understanding of the ways in which beliefs influence people in their behaviour, practices and outlook.
-  to enable learners to apply the insights of the principal religious traditions to their own search for identity and significance.
-  to facilitate learners' individual journeys to developing their own beliefs and values and to have a positive attitude to the search for meaning and purpose in life.
-  to encourage learners to develop a positive attitude towards other people who hold religious beliefs different from their own.

Implementation







Religious Education is typically taught for one hour per week in both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 and has a regular place on the weekly timetable in all of these classes. Further opportunities for Religious Education teaching are implemented through special religious festivals, such as Christmas, Easter, Sukkot, Diwali and Eid, and themed weeks. In EYFS, as well as these further opportunities, children take part in discrete Religious Education lessons as well as those interwoven through the early years curriculum.

At St James Haslingden, we follow the Blackburn Diocesan RE revised syllabus (2022) – Questful RE – alongside Understanding Christianity. Lessons are planned and delivered in a variety of ways ensuring that all children can access and participate in lessons. Interactive, practical activities encourage the children to discuss their ideas and extend their understanding of difficult concepts and challenging questions. Learning is recorded both individually and in a class scrapbook, with greater emphasis on scrapbook work in Early Years and Year 1.






Pupils' progress in RE is based on the expected outcomes outlined in the Agreed Syllabus using the ladder of expectation for teacher assessment. Pupils are assessed on a termly basis. Teachers are mindful that pupils' personal beliefs and ideas are not subject to formal assessment, but are central to good RE. Progress in RE is reported annually to parents in the end of year report.

Impact




At St James' Haslingden, Religious Education develops pupils'...

-  knowledge and understanding of Christianity, other principal world religions, other religious traditions and world views;
-  ability to respond thoughtfully to 'BIG' questions about religions, beliefs and life as a whole;
-  understanding and respect for different religions, beliefs, values and traditions (including ethical life stances), through exploring issues within and between faiths;
-  understanding of the influence of faith and belief on individuals, societies, communities and cultures;
-  skills of enquiry and response through the use of religious vocabulary, questioning and empathy;
-  skills of reflection, expression, application, analysis and evaluation of beliefs, values and practices, and the communication of personal responses to these.

At St James Haslingden, Religious Education encourages pupils to...

-  consider challenging questions of the 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;
-  learn from different religions, beliefs, values and traditions while exploring questions of meaning and their own beliefs;
-  learn about religious and ethical teaching, enabling them to make reasoned and informed responses to religious, moral and social issues;
-  develop their sense of identity and belonging, preparing them for life as citizens in a plural, global society;
-  develop respect for and sensitivity to others, in particular those whose faiths and beliefs are different from their own.

At St James Haslingden, Religious Education enhances pupils'...

-  awareness and understanding of religions and beliefs, teachings, practices and forms of expression;
-  ability to reflect on, consider, analyse, interpret and evaluate issues of truth, belief, faith and ethics and to communicate their responses.
-  opportunities for personal reflection and spiritual development.