



SMSC Statements: Religious Education

Spiritual

Religious education supports spiritual development by enabling children to be reflective about their own beliefs, religious or otherwise. There is a promotion of interest and respect for different people's faiths, feelings and values through world religions being taught from Early Years to Year Six. Class discussions are celebrated which supports a sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them. Spiritual development is also developed by the willingness shown by our pupils to reflect on their own experiences. This is evident throughout each stage of learning but is explicitly focused on during the first lesson of each religious-based question. Pupils build a wide range of religious vocabulary that is used frequently throughout the sequence of learning and this helps develop their imagination and creativity in the work that they produce.

Moral

Religious education supports moral development by developing children's ability to recognise the difference between right and wrong and to apply this in their own lives. This is nurtured throughout the curriculum whereby children learn about the commitment that religious people show in their everyday lives. They may learn about The Ten Commandments, what these mean to a religious person but also what they mean to them and how it links to their everyday life. Children are involved in a variety of tasks including debate which helps them to develop reasoned views about moral and ethical issues. This helps children understand and appreciate the viewpoints of others on these issues. Pupils in school find out about religion in different ways, from stories and narrative to observing religious practices in places of worship.

Social

Religious education supports the social development of children by helping them work together cooperatively with children from different religious, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds. Prior knowledge is consistently drawn upon to remind pupils of differences amongst ourselves. This also encourages discussion with children from different backgrounds and experiences. Children learn about differences within religions for example, Orthodox and Unorthodox Jews to develop the idea that not all people of faith are the same.

Cultural

Religious education supports the cultural development by enabling understanding and appreciation of the wide range of cultural influences that have shaped their own heritage and those of others. Children learn about world religions and learn what it means to belong. Children who do not belong to a faith learn what underpins the belief system of each religion and they are given the opportunity to discuss how they may be similar in a variety of ways. Children in school respond positively to similarities and differences in the changing society we live in and are accepting of different ways of living. This has been achieved through exposure to lessons that they are immersed in.