**Religious Education**

*“RE is the most meaningful way of creating a successful and wholly integrated society. The more people know about the faiths currently thriving in Britain the more likely we will be, as a nation, to embrace our multi-cultural society.”*

**Intent**

At Middlethorpe we aim for a high quality religious education curriculum which will enable children to develop a knowledge and understanding the religions and beliefs which form part of contemporary society. Our curriculum takes in to account the location of the school and the content of the National Curriculum to ensure our children have an accurate understanding of people’s beliefs both in their community and beyond. The essential religious knowledge has been carefully sequenced to ensure it builds progressively within a year, across years and across subjects. Our pupils will learn knowledge about Christianity and how this religion impacts upon British beliefs and culture. Children will compare and contrast Christianity throughout their primary RE journey with other religions such as Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism to ensure that children have a wide yet detailed knowledge base of world religion. We want children to enjoy and love learning about their beliefs as well as others’ beliefs so that they become tolerant, respectful and inquisitive learners of religion.

We aim to develop the following essential characteristics of religious philosophers:

* The ability to think critically about religion (demonstrate a religious philosophy) and communicate ideas confidently and to a range of audiences
* A respect for every person’s religious beliefs (or lack thereof) and the ability to explain their viewpoints with consideration and respect
* A passion for religious education and an enthusiastic engagement in learning, which develops their sense of curiosity about the varying beliefs in our country and world
* A desire to embrace challenging activities, including opportunities to undertake high-quality research across a range of religions and topics
* An excellent knowledge and understanding of people, events/stories and key figures from a range of religions
* The ability to think, reflect, debate, discuss and evaluate the past, formulating questions and lines of enquiry

**Implementation**

Leaders have carefully selected the knowledge and skills which children at Middlethorpe require to fulfil the aims of the subject. The long-term plan (Discovery RE) takes in to account the schools location and the content of the National curriculum. Key concepts have been identified that children encounter at different stages of their educational journey and then revisit repeatedly. We believe that children at Middlethorpe should dive deeper into the overwhelming local religion of Christianity, as well as broaden their religious knowledge by studying a range of contrasting religions alongside. The content has been mapped into one unit per half term which will focus on varying religions: usually two or three. RE will be taught throughout the academic year.

In Foundation Stage, children learn about Christian festivals such as Christmas and Easter; celebrations across a range of different religions including Islam and Judaism; and stories from major world religions such as Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Sikhism.

In Key Stage 1, children study religious stories and customs within both Christianity and Judaism. Children will explore the connection that Christians and Jews have towards their significant figures and/or God. In Year 2, children also have the opportunity to compare and contrast Judaism and Christianity with beliefs and stories within Islam.

In Lower Key Stage 2, children continue to revisit and enhance their knowledge of Christianity and Judaism. Children develop lines of enquiry surrounding religious celebrations and stories from scripture. As well as this, children now have the opportunity to broaden their religious repertoire of knowledge by studying Sikh ceremonies and communities and Hindu beliefs and festivals such as Diwali.

In Upper Key Stage 2, children hone their prior knowledge in order to enquire further into all of the religions that they have learned about in their primary school journey. Children will learn about beliefs, morals and prayer in Sikhism; festivals and commitments to God in Christianity; beliefs and moral values in Hinduism; beliefs, practices and moral values in Islam. It is in Upper Key Stage 2 that children really delve into the philosophy of religion by using their own experiences and reasoning to answer more open-ended religious debates, such as: “Is anything ever eternal?”

At Middlethorpe the local area is fully utilised to aid children’s religious understanding and there are extensive opportunities for learning outside the classroom embedded in practice. We endeavour to expose the children to as many cultural and religious experiences as possible, to not limit their life experiences due to the lack of multiculturalism in our immediate area.

**Impact**

Our Religious Education curriculum is high quality, well thought out and is planned to demonstrate progressions of knowledge and skills. If children are keeping up with the curriculum, they are deemed to be making good or better progress. In addition, we measure the impact of our curriculum through the following methods:

* A reflection on standards achieved against the planned outcomes
* An end of unit task giving children the opportunity to apply their religious knowledge by answering their specific enquiry question
* Tracking of gains in each low stakes quiz
* Pupil discussions about their learning

Outcomes in RE books (and, in some cases, on children’s iPads) evidence a broad and balanced curriculum and demonstrate children’s acquisition and retention of identified key knowledge. The ultimate impact of our RE curriculum is that our children will have a sound understanding of the varied beliefs and moral values of our locality as well as across the main world religions.