

RE – Curriculum Design

“Differences were not meant not to divide but to enrich.” J.H. Oldham

Purpose of Study – Swindon Locally Agreed Syllabus

Religious education contributes dynamically to children’s and young people’s education in schools by provoking challenging questions about meaning and purpose in life, beliefs about God, ultimate reality,

issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human.

- In RE pupils learn about and from religions and world views in local, national and global contexts, to discover, explore and consider different answers to these questions.
- Pupils learn to evaluate wisdom from different sources, to develop and express their insights in response, and to agree or disagree respectfully.
- Teaching therefore should equip pupils with systematic knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews, enabling them to develop their ideas, values and identities.
- It should develop in pupils an aptitude for dialogue, so that they can participate positively in society, with its diverse religions and worldviews.
- Pupils should gain and deploy the skills needed to understand, interpret and evaluate texts, sources of wisdom and authority and other evidence.
- Pupils should be given opportunities to reflect upon their own personal responses to the fundamental human questions to which religious and non-religious worldviews respond.
- Pupils should learn to articulate clearly and coherently their personal beliefs, ideas, values and experiences while respecting the right of others to differ

What are the aims of the subject? - Swindon Locally Agreed Syllabus

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 religious and non-religious worldviews¹, 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 wisdom² found in religious and non-religious 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 religious and non-religious worldviews, so that they can:

- explain, using reasoned arguments, their ideas about how beliefs, practices and forms of expression influence individuals and communities
- 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

3. Gain and deploy the skills needed to engage seriously with religious and non-religious worldviews, so that they can:

- 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 clearly beliefs, values and commitments in order to explain why they may be important in their own and other people's lives.

RE At Rodbourne Cheney Primary School

At Rodbourne Cheney Primary School we believe that it is important for children to have a valuable insight into the different world religions. We believe that it helps our children develop their own opinions and beliefs of the world around them. It teaches our children to be respectful and understanding of differing cultures and beliefs. We think it is very important for children to think philosophically about the world around them where they can answer and ask questions using their own opinions and beliefs. RE is key for exposing children to a variety of different world-views, beliefs and cultures. This helps the children in our school to become more spiritually, socially and morally tolerant.

Through RE at Rodbourne Cheney Primary School, children will learn about different religions and their traditions, practices and beliefs. The teaching of Religious Education at Rodbourne Cheney Primary School comes from Jigsaw RE. The scheme of work is split into terms and then into individual lessons. Each lesson starts with an enquiry question to answer based on the learning in that lesson and term. The children learn and remember more when revisiting religions each year. Each year, the children are able to master their knowledge and understanding of 4 different religions. Not only do we teach a full RE curriculum we also expose children to different religions and events throughout the school year. Children enjoy learning about different celebrations at different points in the year.

To enthuse and engage children in RE we provide opportunities to explore artefacts, objects, events that are linked to their RE learning. Children are able to talk about their own special objects and artefacts that they have at home or religious settings or family events and make sense of these. Children also have the opportunity to visit local places of worship. Weekly assemblies and regular visits to the local Church take place to bring learning to life and allow children to make real life links to their learning.