



Religious Education at St Michael's School reflects our whole school values of **respect, kindness, perseverance, forgiveness** and **challenge**. The RE curriculum enables children to study a range of religious and worldviews and reflect on their own opinions. We provide opportunities for children to **understand** how our school values are rooted in the Christian faith, and also to recognise how these values are widely held across many key world religions and worldviews. RE at St Michael's School develops children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development so that they are **respectful** and **understanding** of others. The teaching of RE allows children to express their own enquiring, informed and reflective views about beliefs and prepares them for future life. Along with other subjects, RE helps to develop children's confidence to speak and be able to clearly articulate their ideas and arguments. The RE curriculum is enriched by visits to places of worship and engagement with members of different faith communities.

## BIG IDEAS

- **RESPECT** – I value other peoples' views and beliefs and know that they may be different from my own.
- **DIVERSITY** – I understand that people have different ways of doing things and this can also come from their cultural and religious identity.
- **UNDERSTANDING** – I understand why some peoples' beliefs and values might cause them to act in a certain way.



## What you will see in our lessons:

R.E is taught weekly and each year group covers 6 units of R.E across the year. We adhere to the Cumbria Agreed Syllabus for R.E and our planning cycle is taken from the Carlisle diocese units of work which is adapted to suit the needs of our school and intent of our wider curriculum. The key knowledge and skills that children acquire in each unit have been designed to ensure progression across the school. Each unit has an overarching question as the title and this is broken down into a learning journey which includes a sequence of questions for each lesson.

Children are given opportunities to learn about key concepts of deity, worship, belonging and identity and values which they explore through Christianity, Islam and Hinduism alongside elements of other religions and worldviews. They are encouraged to draw on this knowledge to compare different religions and worldviews. Visual symbol cards are used to indicate which religions are being explored during lessons to enable children to make connections and revise prior knowledge.

At the start of each unit children's knowledge will be assessed through the use of a quiz or other activity designed to gather their prior knowledge and thoughts about the area in which they are about to study. Knowledge and skills organisers are introduced at the start of each topic and referred to throughout to enable children to see what they will be learning and how this develops across the unit.

When teaching R.E at St Michael's CE School we not only give children opportunities to develop their knowledge of a range of religions and worldviews, in order to be able to understand the views and beliefs of others, but we also enable children to gain and deploy the skills of being able to engage respectfully in discussions around ethical questions and consider ideas about how diverse communities can live together for the wellbeing of all.

We pose challenging questions and encourage children to form their own opinions and ideas and justify these using the knowledge they have. We support children to develop confidence to ask big questions of their own and discuss these in a way which shows respect for others. We offer a structured and safe place for discussion, dialogue and debate.

A range of resources are used to enhance the teaching of R.E. and boxes of special items and information are available for the main religions studied. We also make use of places of worship in the local area and beyond and invite visitors into school to enhance children's learning. As a C of E school we have a very strong relationship with the local church community and the local vicar also helps with the delivery of some units.