

Intent

At Wimboldsley and William Stockton Federated Primary Schools, we believe that it is important for all our pupils to learn from and about religion, so that they can understand the world around them. The aim of Religious Education in our schools is to help children to acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and the other principal religions represented in Great Britain; to appreciate the way that religious beliefs shape life and behaviour, develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues and enhance their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

It plays an important role, along with all other curriculum areas, particularly PSHE, in promoting social awareness and understanding in our children. We encourage our pupils to ask questions about the world and to reflect on their own beliefs, values and experiences. We include and promote British values, ensuring that children are aware of their rights and responsibilities as UK citizens.

Our curriculum is designed to encourage creativity, imagination, enquiry, debate, discussion and independence. To ensure that the children can store their sticky knowledge in their long term memory, children are asked to recall the prior learning and make links between the learning that they have previously completed. This encourages the children to make strong and meaningful schema.

Implementation

We use the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education developed by Cheshire West and Chester Local Authority as the basis for our curriculum. However, we have adapted this for the needs of our schools and their communities.

At Wimboldsley and William Stockton Federated Primary Schools, the following religions have been selected for study:

- Christianity
- Islam
- Judaism
- Hinduism
- Sikhism

From the syllabus it is required that:-

- In the Early Years Foundation Stage the learning outcomes are referenced to Christianity and as appropriate to a range of other beliefs and cultures.
- KS1 - Christianity is studied (and one other principal religion in each year group)
- KS2 – Christianity is studied (and two other principal religions in each year group)

In the Summer term, each year group has the opportunity to explore an open ended enquiry question.

Our RE long term plan takes into account a 2 year cycle to meet the needs of our mixed aged classes.

We value the religious background of all members of the school community and hope that this will encourage individuals to share their own experiences with others freely. All religions and their communities are treated with respect and sensitivity and we value the links, which are, and can be made between home, school, and a faith community. Representatives visit school to work with the children both in assemblies and classes and we take part in community events.

We acknowledge that each religion studied can contribute to the education of all our pupils. We promote teaching in Religious Education that stresses open enquiry and first-hand experiences wherever possible for both staff and children.

Impact

The children at Wimboldsley and William Stockton Federated Primary Schools enjoy learning about other religions and why people choose, or choose not to follow a religion. Through their R.E. learning, the children are able to make links between their own lives and those of others in their community and in the wider and rapidly changing world, developing an understanding of other people's cultures and ways of life. This helps them to develop a clear and strong schema, which supports them in knowing and remembering more.

Comparison judgements are made to identify the effectiveness of the curriculum and to identify the progress that the children are making. This occurs by teachers comparing what the children knew at the beginning and what they know at the end of a teaching unit.

Through our school monitoring system, 'Precision Teach', the effectiveness of the curriculum is analysed and the points from this inform subject lead action plans. This ensures that there is a constant review and improvement cycle.