Beechwood Primary School





Religious Education Curriculum Statement

Intent

Religious Education at Beechwood has a significant role in the development of pupil's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Religious Education at Beechwood aims to encourage learners to develop a positive attitude towards other people who hold religious beliefs different from their own and promotes respect and open mindedness towards others with different faiths and beliefs. It also encourages pupils to develop their sense of identity and belonging through self-awareness and reflection.

The principle aim of RE is to engage pupils through an enquiry-based approach where they can develop an understanding and appreciation of principle religions and world views in the wider global community. RE plays an important role, along with all other curriculum areas, in promoting social awareness and understanding in our children. RE also includes and promotes British values alongside PSHE. We encourage our pupils to ask questions about the world, as well as reflect on their own beliefs, values and experiences. At Beechwood, Discovery RE underpins our curriculum. "Our belief is that, using an enquiry-based model well, children's critical thinking skills can be developed, their motivation to learn increased, and their knowledge and understanding of, and empathy with people and their beliefs, religious or otherwise, will be enhanced. This approach takes very seriously the philosophy that children are free to make their own choices and decisions concerning religion and belief. RE does not try to persuade but rather to inform and develop the skills with which evaluation can take place." Discovery RE.

Implementation

Discovery RE advocates an enquiry model with a 4-step approach as the basis for implementation. Every unit / enquiry is based around a key question. The key question for the enquiry is such that it demands an answer that weighs up 'evidence' (subject knowledge) and reaches a conclusion based on this. This necessitates children using their subject knowledge and applying it to the enquiry question, rather than this knowledge being an end in itself. Discovery RE focuses on critical thinking skills, on personal reflection into the child's own thoughts and feelings, on growing subject knowledge and nurturing spiritual development.

The children start from their own experience to develop engagement with the aspect of RE that is being studied then move into investigating that concept in depth from the point of view of the chosen religion. This continues over three lessons of investigation and discussion throughout Step 2, which embeds subject knowledge. These lessons not only

Expression

Expression

Evaluation

support the children with embedding their RE knowledge, but also contributes to their oracy and critical thinking skills. In Step 3, they complete an assessment activity to evaluate the question again in light of



their new knowledge and have further opportunities to embed their own reflections and expressions in the learning Step 4.

At Beechwood, the children study Christianity plus one other religion in each year group, meaning both religions have multiple enquiries (usually comprising of 6 week units) per year. This ensures that the children revisit prior learning for both religions throughout the year to build on the previous enquiries, and Christmas and Easter enquiries are built on year-on-year throughout the child's primary school journey. At Beechwood we use the curriculum to ensure there is support for all those that need it, plus appropriately challenging higher-order-thinking questions and discussion activities.

There are no presumptions made as to the religious backgrounds and beliefs and values of the children and the staff. 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.

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.

School Vision

Explore, Discover, Achieve

Explore – The children are given many opportunities to explore a range of religions. As they progress though the school they explore these religions on a deeper level and start to explore how the main principles of many religions (e.g commitment and respect) feature in their own day to day lives no matter what their religious beliefs may be.

Discover – As the children progress through the school the children discover similarities and differences between religions. The children are also provided with a safe environment to discover their own feelings and responses towards different religions.

Achieve – When the children leave Beechwood they will have achieved a secure understand of the beliefs and traditions of a range of religions and be able to compare them to their own beliefs and life-choices which in turn makes them respectful members of the community.

Curriculum coverage

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
EYFS	Theme:	Theme:	Theme:	Theme:	Theme:	Theme:
	Special People	Christmas	Celebrations	Easter	Stories	Special Places
	Key Question:	Concept:	Key Question:	Concept: Salvation	Key Question:	Key Question:
	What makes people	Incarnation	How do people	Key Question:	What can we learn	What makes places
	special?	Key Question:	celebrate?	What is Easter?	from stories?	special?
	Religions:	What is Christmas?	Religions: Hinduism	Religion:	Religions:	Religions:
	Christianity,	Religion:		Christianity	Christianity, Islam,	Christianity, Islam,
	Judaism	Christianity			Hinduism, Sikhism	Judaism
Year 1	Theme:	Theme:	Theme:	Theme:	Theme:	Theme:
	Creation Story	Christmas	Jesus as a friend	Easter - Palm	Shabbat	Rosh Hashanah and
	Concept:	Concept:	Concept:	Sunday	Key Question:	Yom Kippur
	God/Creation	Incarnation	Incarnation	Concept: Salvation	Is Shabbat	Key Question:
	Key Question:	Key Question:	Key Question:	Key Question:	important to Jewish	Are Rosh Hashanah
	Does God want	What gifts might	Was it always easy	Why was Jesus	children?	and Yom Kippur
	Christians to look	Christians In my	for Jesus to show	welcomed like a	Religion: Judaism	important to Jewish
	after the world?	town have given	friendship?	king or celebrity by		children?
	Religion:	Jesus if he had been	Religion:	the		Religion: Judaism
	Christianity	born here rather	Christianity	crowds on Palm		
		than in Bethlehem?		Sunday?		
		Religion:		Religion:		
		Christianity		Christianity		
Year 2	Theme:	Theme:	Theme:	Theme:	Theme:	Theme:

	What did Jesus teach? Key Question: Is it possible to be kind to everyone all of the time? Religion: Christianity	Christmas - Jesus as gift from God Concept: Incarnation Key Question: Why do Christians believe God gave Jesus to the world? Religion: Christianity	Prayer at home Key Question: Does praying at regular intervals help a Muslim in his/ her everyday life? Religion: Islam	Easter - Resurrection Concept: Salvation Key Question: How important is it to Christians that Jesus came back to life after His crucifixion? Religion: Christianity	Community and Belonging Key Question: Does going to a Mosque give Muslims a sense of belonging? Religion: Islam	Hajj Key Question: Does completing Hajj make a person a better Muslim? Religion: Islam
Year 3	Theme: Divali Key Question: Would celebrating Divali at home and in the community bring a feeling of belonging to a Hindu child? Religion: Hinduism	Theme: Christmas Concept: Incarnation Key Question: Has Christmas lost its true meaning? Religion: Christianity	Theme: Jesus' Miracles Concept: Incarnation Key Question: Could Jesus heal people? Were these miracles or is there some other explanation? Religion: Christianity	Theme: Easter - Forgiveness Concept: Salvation Key Question: What is 'good' about Good Friday? Religion: Christianity	Theme: Hindu Beliefs Key Question: How can Brahman be everywhere and in everything? Religion: Hinduism	Theme: Pilgrimage to the River Ganges Key Question: Would visiting the River Ganges feel special to a non- Hindu? Religion: Hinduism
Year 4	Theme: Buddha's teachings Key Question: Is it possible for everyone to be happy? Religion: Buddhism	Theme: Christmas Concept: Incarnation Key Question: What is the most significant part of the nativity story for Christians today? Religion: Christianity	Theme: The 8-fold path Key Question: Can the Buddha's teachings make the world a better place? Religion: Buddhism	Theme: Easter Concept: Salvation Key Question: Is forgiveness always possible for Christians? Religion: Christianity	Theme: The 8-fold path Key Question: What is the best way for a Buddhist to lead a good life? Religion: Buddhism	Theme: Prayer and Worship Key Question: Do people need to go to church to show they are Christians? Religion: Christianity
Year 5	Theme: Belief into action Key Question: How far would a Sikh go for his/her religion? Religion: Sikhism	Theme: Christmas Concept: Incarnation Key Question: Is the Christmas story true? Religion: Christianity	*Theme: Beliefs and moral values Key Question: Are Sikh stories important today? Religion: Sikhism	Theme: Easter Concept: Salvation Key Question: How significant is it for Christians to believe God intended Jesus to die? Religion: Christianity	Theme: Prayer and Worship Key Question: What is the best way for a Sikh to show commitment to God? Religion: Sikhism	Theme: Beliefs and Practices Key Question: What is the best way for a Christian to show commitment to God? Religion: Christianity
Year 6	Theme: Beliefs and Practices Key Question: What is the best way for a Muslim to show commitment to God? Religion: Islam	Theme: Christmas Concept: Incarnation Key Question: How significant is it that Mary was Jesus' mother? Religion: Christianity	Theme: Beliefs and Meaning Concept: Salvation Key Question: Is anything ever eternal? Religion: Christianity	Theme: Easter Concept: Gospel Key Question: Is Christianity still a strong religion 2000 years after Jesus was on Earth? Religion: Christianity	Theme: Beliefs and moral values Key Question: Does belief in Akhirah (life after death) help Muslims lead good lives? Religion: Islam Theme: NB: This enquiry is taught in 2 sections over the term	

Impact

The curriculum at Beechwood extends their knowledge and understanding of religions and beliefs, develops a religious vocabulary and interprets religious symbolism in a variety of forms. The children can reflect on questions of meaning, offering their own thoughtful and informed insights into religious and secular world-views. They explore ultimate questions of beliefs and values in relation to a range of contemporary issues in an ever-changing society. The most important impact of our RE scheme is teaching

hildren to respect that we are all different and have different beliefs and that they leave our espectful members of the community.	r school being