

RE at St. Mary's. We always aim to let our light shine!

As theologians, we 'Let our lights shine' by taking a multidisciplinary approach. By the end of their time at school, all of our children will have the opportunity to study RE through different 'lenses' such as psychology, philosophy, sociology and theology to find out about people's differing worldviews. This will enable our children to find out about what different people believe and how this makes a difference to how they live.

Let your light shine in RE:

Through the teaching of RE at St Mary's Primary School, we aim to ensure the children are equipped to deal with the demands of the 21st century and become lifelong learners.

- For children to work co-operatively with others, listening to their ideas and treating these with respect.
- For children to become inquisitive learners and want to ask and answers relevant questions about world religions and non-religious worldviews.
- For children to develop respect for world religions and non-religious world views and understand how it impacts on their own lives and that of others.

Throughout their time at St. Mary's C of E Primary School, our children will be given the opportunity to study a range of world religions and non-religious worldviews. As a school, we are committed to ensuring that our RE curriculum is based upon recent research. This will ensure that they will learn about diversity within the worldviews that they study. All of our children will be given a range of opportunities to ask big questions about religion and belief, reflecting on their own ideas and ways of living.

At St. Mary's C of E Primary School, we believe that our RE curriculum should be challenging, exciting, thought provoking and interesting. We want to ensure that our children go out into the world understanding the differing views of the people that they will come into contact with.

Pupil Intent Statement

RE explores big questions about life, to find out what people believe and what difference this makes to how they live. RE helps pupils to make sense of religion and belief, reflecting on their own ideas and ways of living.

Implementation: At St. Mary's C of E Primary School we follow the Somerset locally agreed syllabus that includes the Understanding Christianity

materials. Each unit of work identifies and builds upon prior learning through the use of a spiral curriculum.

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 some depth)
- KS2 – Christianity is studied (and two other principal religions in some depth)

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 are extremely lucky that members of our church, regularly visit our school to carry out collective worships. 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.

Teaching: RE is taught in a block unit within a half term and allows suitable links to be made to specific religious festivals taking place. It is recognised that discussion and listening to others is an important part of learning in RE, so lessons are recorded in various ways including a whole class book to gain evidence of the children's development in learning. Written evidence is also recorded in individual books, which gives the children time to reflect on their own understanding. Within lessons, we provide opportunities to hear and use specific RE vocabulary. Through the use of Big Questions, children are encouraged to discuss and debate current or global issues. Teachers plan lessons to revisit prior learning via the use of quizzing at the start of each lesson. This enables the children to transfer knowledge to their long-term memory. Cross curricular links are made where possible, particularly when studying world religions or global issues. Children are encouraged to use their literacy skills to record thoughts and views. Speaking and listening is a key element within the lessons. 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.

Golden Threads: Throughout the units we weave in the golden threads of making sense of the text, understanding the impact and making connections. Using the golden threads will support the children in their understanding and the final outcomes.



Assessment is used throughout our teaching to help children to embed new knowledge, check pupils' understanding systematically, identify misunderstandings and adapt teaching as necessary.

Resources: Children gain a deeper understanding of the religion studied through the use of resources and artefacts.

Impact: The children at St. Mary's enjoy learning lots 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 world. R.E. acts as a hub, therefore, between social aspects of learning, science and geography. Through R.E. our children are developing an understanding of other people's cultures and ways of life, which they are then able to communicate to the wider community.

R.E. offers our children the means by which to understand how other people choose to live and to understand why they choose to live in that way. As such, R.E. is invaluable in an ever changing and shrinking world, helping the children to understand how they can let their light shine in our school, in our community and in the wider world around them.