



Introduction	1
Intent.....	1
Implementation	1
Impact	2

Introduction

Religious and Worldviews are the interpretive frameworks that form the foundations of people's lives. Religious and Worldview Education is a discipline dedicated to explaining the beliefs and practises of people throughout the world. It seeks to help pupils understand their own beliefs and values and foster empathy and compassion towards others. When investigating, their thinking is developed through disciplinary concepts that encourage them to think as a theologian. These concepts form a unique framework of enquiry and shape the questions that theologians investigate.

Intent

As a Church of England School, the Christian faith is the foundations of everything that we do at St James'. In all learning and life experiences, we aim to fulfil our school vision. We promote an environment where all children feel known, accepted, and valued as individuals, within a caring community, where our Christian faith affects not only what we teach, but also how we teach. We believe Religious Education has a significant role for the development of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. It promotes respect and open-mindedness towards others with different faiths and beliefs and encourages pupils to develop their sense of identity and belonging through self-awareness and reflection. The principle aim of RE is to engage pupils in an enquiry approach where they can develop an understanding and appreciation for the expression of beliefs, cultural practices and influence of principle religions and worldviews in the local, national and wider global community.

Implementation

Our RE teaching is informed by two different Church of England approved teaching schemes; Understanding Christianity and the Emmanuel Project. By using these schemes alongside each other, teachers are able to design exciting and challenging teaching/learning activities for each lesson/enquiry and ensure children are given the opportunity to become religiously literate.

Understanding Christianity is based upon seven core Christian concepts. Children will explore the different concepts in a range of inspiring activities as they move through the school, starting in Foundation Stage and developing a great depth of understanding by the time they reach Year 4. Understanding Christianity believes that not only should children show an understanding of the religious text and teachings but they should also demonstrate a deepened and more thoughtful approach to their learning and how this influences day to day life. Therefore, is based upon a three-step enquiry model of teaching.

Within the clear teaching sequence, individual lessons are designed around an enquiry question, which children are expected to be able to answer at the end of the lesson. Each lesson builds in small steps upon the previous, with



St James' First School

RE Curriculum Overview

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prior learning referenced within the teaching sequence through a variety of means such as low stakes cumulative quizzing, structured talk and retrieval practice. This ensures that children can secure their learning in small steps, with teaching informed by continuous assessment of and for learning and misconceptions addressed at point in time. At the end of learning sequences, children use their accumulated knowledge to answer their key over-arching enquiry question.

We use a variety of teaching methods including art, music, discussion, drama, the use of artefacts, pictures and stories. We aim to give children time to reflect and evaluate and this can be seen in our class reflection journals. From Year 1 upwards all the children have RE books to record learning and EYFS have floor books.

Vocabulary is an essential building block to enable children to access the curriculum; within RE & WV teaching sequences we use explicitly planned vocabulary to teach tier 2 and 3 vocabulary to all children. Teachers ensure that all children understand the key vocabulary needed to access the learning, with careful scaffolding for children with SEND. To support their vocabulary acquisition, the etymology and morphology of key vocabulary is also taught explicitly in our spelling lessons throughout KS2.

Impact

We aim to ensure our children at St James' -

- Have a secure understanding and knowledge of the religions studied and be confident to answer questions.
- Have the ability to ask significant and reflective questions about religion and demonstrate a good understanding of issues relating to the nature, truth and value of religion.
- Have a sense of self, identity and belonging, to flourish within the community and be responsible citizens.
- Show respect, tolerance and understanding of all religions and beliefs.
- Have a strong understanding of how the beliefs, values, practices and ways of life within any religion come together.