

Religious Education

Intent

At St James' Church of England Primary Academy, it is our intent for the Religious Education element of our school curriculum to engage, inspire, challenge and encourage pupils, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to answer challenging questions. We strive to prepare all our children to successfully aspire to a wealth of opportunities with curiosity and resilience embedded in all they do. Religious Education contributes significantly to the Christian character of the school and enables pupils to ask deep and often searching questions about their own faiths and beliefs, and the beliefs, faiths and opinions of others regarding pertinent contemporary moral issues. Pupils will be able to deepen their understanding of God as encountered and taught by Christians. The teaching of RE makes links between the beliefs, practices and value systems of a range of faiths and world-views studied. The RE curriculum will help to develop responsibility and respect for all aspects of diversity, whether it be social, cultural and religious, and prepare pupils well for life in modern Britain.

Implementation

Religious Education is taught on a weekly basis in each year group. Teachers will use the Big Question from the Understanding Christianity scheme of learning as a way to gauge the children's prior knowledge and understanding. Some key topics, for example incarnation and salvation are visited within every year group and teachers are expected to build and deepen the children's understanding of the topic. Lessons are planned and delivered in a variety of ways so that all children have equal opportunities to contribute and share their thoughts. The use of a class big book allows discussions to be recorded and key points be noted down along with the children's names. Again, allowing all children to achieve. Interactive, practical activities linked to the themes from Understanding Christianity, encourage our pupils to discuss their ideas and extend their understanding of difficult concepts and challenging questions. Religious Education is teacher assessed termly and reported back to the RE lead, allowing the RE lead to target year groups and/or teachers in need of support and challenge. Progress in RE is reported to parents annually within the end of year reports.

Impact

Religious Education at St James' Church of England Primary Academy offers:

- opportunities for all pupils for personal reflection and spiritual development;
- preparedness for life in a multi-cultural global society where they can exist in harmony with others and aspire to live life to the full.

Religious Education at St James' Church of England Primary Academy encourages pupils to:

- consider their own thoughts and opinions on the challenging questions of the meaning and purpose of life, beliefs about God, their own self and their moral dilemmas
- understand the influence of religion on individuals, families, communities and cultures

- learn from different religions, beliefs, values and traditions while exploring questions of meaning and their own beliefs;
- learn about religious and ethical teaching, enabling them to make reasoned and informed responses to religious, moral and social issues;
- develop their sense of identity and belonging in the world, preparing them for life as citizens in a multi-cultural global society;

Religious Education at St James' Church of England Primary Academy develops pupils':

- knowledge and understanding of, and their ability to respond to, Christianity, other principal world religions, other religious traditions and world views;
- understanding and respect for different religions, beliefs, values and traditions (including ethical life choices), through exploring issues within and between faiths;
- understanding of the influence of faith and belief on individuals, societies, communities and cultures;
- skills of enquiry and response through the use of religious vocabulary, questioning and empathy;
- skills of reflection, expression, application, analysis and evaluation of beliefs, values and practices, and the communication of personal responses to these.
- develop respect for and sensitivity to others, in particular those whose faiths and beliefs are different from their own.