



Our Religious Education Curriculum at Deeping St. James



Intent Statement

At Deeping St James Community Primary we believe that the purpose of Religious Education is to support children in acquiring and developing knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other world faiths to help them make sense of the world around them. Through Religious Education, our children will develop their understanding and awareness of the beliefs, values and traditions of other individuals, societies, communities and cultures, and will learn to appreciate the way that religious beliefs shape lives and behaviours.

Alongside Christian values and the school's 4 core Learning Behaviours we include and promote British values, ensuring that children are aware of their rights and responsibilities as UK citizens.

Implementation

At DSJCP we use Discovery RE alongside the Lincolnshire Agreed Syllabus in deliver the compulsory and optional teaching of the following 6 religions:

- Christianity
- Islam
- Hinduism
- Judaism
- Sikhism
- Buddhism

Other religions, beliefs and worldviews are studied alongside the core religions as a point of comparison, but not as the focus of study.

In the Early Years Foundation Stage the programme of study links specifically to some Early Learning Goals and we introduce our children to the specific religions outlined above through stories, celebrations and festivals, people who are special to us and our beautiful world.

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. Our curriculum is designed to encourage critical thinking skills, encouraging debate and reflection. The teaching of Religious Education in this way reflects the overall aims, values, and philosophy of the school. Our pupils are encouraged to ask the "big questions" about the world and to reflect on their own beliefs, values and experiences.

There is interconnectivity between Religious Education and other curriculum areas in promoting the spiritual, moral, social, cultural and character development of our children, giving them the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues. Our Religious Education curriculum is further enhanced where possible with trips to places of worship or visitors of various faiths, supporting our culture and diversity key to success.

Our use of the Discovery RE Scheme of Work ensures that our curriculum consistently builds on prior learning with children revisiting key concepts and ideas throughout their time at DSJCP so that they deepen their knowledge and understanding.

Impact

The children at DSJCP enjoy learning through and about other religions, and reflect on why people choose, or choose not, to follow a religion. Through their Religious Education learning, the children are able to make links between their own lives and those of others within their community and the wider world, developing an understanding of other people's cultures and ways of life and enabling them to be courageous advocates engaging in social action. They will leave DSJCP able to articulately express their own views and opinions on world religions.

Pupil voice and end of unit assessments help us to review the impact of our curriculum.

Through Religious Education our children develop an understanding of, and positive attitude towards, other people's cultures and ways of life. It offers our children the ability to understand how other people choose to live and to understand why they choose to live in that way. As such, Religious Education is invaluable in an ever-changing world.