Religious Education

Statement of intent

Here at Drayton CE VC Junior School, we follow the Norfolk Agreed Syllabus scheme. The aim of religious education (RE) is to help children acquire and develop knowledge and gain an understanding of Christianity and the other principal religions represented in Great Britain; to appreciate the way that religious beliefs shape life and our behaviour, develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues and to enhance their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

We use a multi-disciplinary syllabus to provide pupils the learning opportunities they need in order to hold balanced and well-informed conversations on religion and worldviews. Religious education is taught throughout the school in such a way as to reflect the CARE values of the school.

Through RE, pupils are encouraged to explore life's big questions, reflect on meaning and purpose, and experience the diversity of faith and belief. These opportunities nurture spiritual growth, empathy and respect, helping children to develop a deeper understanding of themselves, others and the world around them.

Implementation

As a church school, Christianity is the predominant religion in the school's pupil population and in the surrounding community; therefore, taking this into account, along with the requirements and guidelines of the Norfolk Agreed Syllabus, Christianity is the principal religion studied. In addition, we use the Understanding Christianity resource to nurture pupils' religious literacy within this area. The other religions selected for study are Islam, Hinduism and Humanism although pupils will experience other religions and world views during Key Stage two.

The Norfolk Agreed Syllabus provides a broad and balanced programme of RE which reflects three key areas – Theology, Philosophy and Human/Social Science. RE is taught as an enquiry process led by a key question, e.g. How do Christians belong to their faith family? Core knowledge bullet points are incorporated into the school's long term plan to ensure continuity.

At Drayton Juniors, we value the religious background of all members of the school community, treating all backgrounds and beliefs with respect and sensitivity. We value the links which are, and can be made between, home, school and a faith community. We promote teaching in religious education that stresses open enquiry and first-hand experiences wherever possible for both staff and children.

Impact

The children at Drayton Junior School enjoy learning about other religions and why people choose, or choose not to follow a religion. Through their RE learning, the children are able to make links between their own lives and those of others in their community and in the wider world. RE acts as a hub, therefore, between social aspects of other curriculum areas. Through RE, 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.

RE is assessed using the Norfolk Agreed Syllabus Age-related expectations; these are also included on the school's long-term plan so teachers are aware of RE progression.

RE 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, RE is invaluable in an ever changing world.

