

We always try to be that little bit better

Introduction

At the centre of our curriculum are our school aims and drivers and RE is key to ensuring that children **aspire** to become independent and responsible members of a society who understand and explore big questions about life, to find out and respect what people believe and what difference this makes to how they live, so that they can make sense of religion, reflecting on their own ideas and ways of living. At Seaburn Dene, RE is accessible to all: we give every child the opportunity to have access to RE lessons weekly as part of the main teaching timetable. Through high quality delivery, our vision is to provide our children with opportunities for them to learn about and from religions and worldviews in local, national and global contexts, discover, explore and consider different answers to these questions.

Intent

In ensuring high standards of teaching and learning in RE, we use the Agreed Sunderland Religious Education Syllabus and Discovery RE, the enquiry approach to Religious Education scheme as the basis for our curriculum. Discovery RE supports Ofsted outcomes, SMSC, British Values, Anti-radicalisation, Personal Development and **Critical thinking and Growth Mindset**.

Discovery consists of six lesson enquiry modules for each year group covering the six principal religions: Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism. Christianity is taught in every year group from EYFS to Year 6, with Christmas and Easter given fresh treatment each year within the scheme, developing children's learning in a progressive way.

Each module starts with a big enquiry question e.g.

Is it true that Jesus came back to life again?

Does joining a Khalsa make a person a better Sikh?

The key question for the enquiry is such that it demands an answer that weighs up 'evidence' and reaches a conclusion based on this. This necessitates children using their subject knowledge and applying it to the enquiry question, rather than this knowledge being an end in itself.

The enquiry based approach follows four steps:

Step 1 Engagement: The human experience underpinning the key question is explored here within the children's own experience.

Step 2 Investigation:(usually the equivalent of 3 lessons). The teacher guides the children through the enquiry.

Step 3 (usually 1 lesson) Evaluation: This lesson draws together the children's learning and their conclusions about the key question of that enquiry. This is an assessment task.

Step 4 Reflection: Children return to step 1 to reflect on how the enquiry might have influenced their belief.

At Seaburn Dene, we teach the RE knowledge and skills in a developmental and age-appropriate way. These explicit lessons are reinforced and enhanced in many ways: Assemblies and collective worship, trips and visiting experts.

SEND children in our school are supported in their learning across the curriculum: 1:1 and small group support is given when needed. Lessons are also adapted for pupils who are working at greater depth in RE by using challenging questions so that they can apply their learning in a philosophical/open manner.

Implementation

Planning

1. Long term: Each year group covers six set RE topics per academic year; these have been chosen carefully to ensure coverage of the National Curriculum objectives and linked to Sunderland's Agreed Syllabus.
2. Medium term: Key enquiry questions form the basis of medium-term plans. These are mapped out alongside the knowledge and skills objectives covered.
3. Short term: Teachers break down topics into lessons that are combined with additional activities to enhance RE knowledge and skills. For example:
 - Access to religious artefacts in school and places of worship, as well as secondary sources, such as books, videos and photographs.
 - Visitors, who talk about personal experiences connected to their faith and the opportunity to complete fieldwork.

To enhance RE understanding, we also provide:

- Whole-school assemblies focusing on key faith dates and key figures, such as Open The Book (Bible stories), Yom Kippur, Eid and Diwali
- Whole school events, such as Prayer Space and Nativity.

Teaching

All lessons are delivered in an age and key stage appropriate way so that they meet all children's needs through whole-class teaching and key questions. Through formative and summative assessment, activities are adapted to ensure gaps are filled and the optimum progress is made. RE learning also features 'Flashback 4' activity, which is used for quick recall of prior knowledge in the unit and learning from previous topics (including those studied in previous years). Lessons also contain a 'Flash Forward 4' activity, which links RE to wider aspirations, thinking and concepts. Visits and visitors will allow children to apply their skills and build upon the appreciation of history in its wider context (e.g Sikh Temple visit, Inter-Faith Week.)

Learning Environment

Lessons take place within class or the hall if required. This allows for adequate space for the physical nature of some of our activities. Evidence of written work is recorded within a Discovery RE book from Year 1 to Year 6. EYFS provides evidence within a Learning Story display, floorbook and individual children's Learning Journal slides on the Shared Drive. Every class should display their Owl character, and a celebration of children's learning.

Impact

We measure our impact of the curriculum through the following methods:

- A reflection on standards achieved against a clear skills progression document
- Learning walks
- Pupil voice and parent feedback
- Monitoring
- Flashback 4 - revisiting, and assessing, previous learning.
- Flashforward 4 - potentially identifying careers, vocabulary and aspirational links from the topic to the real world.

Assessment

From EYFS to Year 6, children will be assessed at the end of each module. An assessment judgement will be reached from the whole class feedback sheets (which will include a link to an area of the KASP for that subject) will be used to reach an assessment for each child. An exit assessment will take place at the end of each module, with questions sourced from the Practice and Challenge questions used in each unit.

