

Religious Education and Collective Worship Curriculum Statement

Intent

The RE curriculum at St Matthew's Primary Academy is designed to promote respect, empathy and knowledge of how the lives and views of others are shaped and lived. It provides opportunities for children to develop their own beliefs and values in a fast changing world. We aim to help children understand the place of religion and belief in their local community and globally. Our Christ centred collective worship exposes children to Christian values, Bible teachings and current world issues. We want children to learn how Christian groups and others globally help those in need, thus seeing values in practise.

The curriculum and collective worship celebrates diversity in the world and enables children to learn in-depth about lives very different to their own. Through our teaching of RE, including in collective worship, we aim to develop the children spiritually, morally, socially and culturally, preparing them for life in modern Britain. Through RE and collective worship we want children in our school to enjoy learning and worship, using their faith to make positive choices. We want children to be respectful to all others and feel valued as individuals.

Implementation

The curriculum incorporates the New Norfolk RE Syllabus, the Understanding Christianity resource and other planned experiences and opportunities (such as focus days and trips to local places of worship) which best meet the learning and developmental needs of the children in our rural schools.

A blocked curriculum approach has been implemented to ensure coverage and progression in RE. The RE curriculum map ensures that visits are planned to enable us to widen the children's experiences and enhance their learning. In Collective Worship we use the Christian Aid calendar to help us focus on global issues. Pupils are involved in collective worship and take turns in running collective worship sessions or leading 'Pause for Thought', giving the children a chance to feel empowered about global issues and Christian values.

Each class covers five units across the year and focus days and trips are planned into the two year cycle to enhance experiences. Philosophy, social science and theology are covered in each year group. Key Christian concepts are covered and carefully mapped out across year groups using the Understanding Christianity resource to ensure that the upper end of key stages can use the digging deeper sections of planning.

This approach enables enquiry based learning, fostering each child's curiosity and interest throughout each topic and also enabling the achievement of depth in knowledge and skills. The children are always asked at the beginning of each block to suggest questions they may have, these are then used to help shape the enquiry. At the end of each block children are asked to comment on their learning and activities through pupil voice activities and yearly through an RE questionnaire. All responses are then used to mould future planning; ensuring children are helping to shape their curriculum.

All work is recorded in an RE floor book, this enables all children to share and celebrate their work. It also means the subject leader can clearly see progression from all children across the year group and school.

Impact

RE lessons within our school promote discussion skills and a classroom environment where children feel confident and safe to share their ideas and views without any judgement being made. Children feel safe to try new things and know that their ideas are valued.

High quality visits and visitors to the school enhance the curriculum and provide opportunities to learn about their own community, the local community and the global community. Children are exposed to experiences beyond that of the rural community where they live.

Through our teaching of RE and collective worship we teach children to be respectful of all and to be inclusive of all.

Children have opportunities to share their learning with each other, their parents and carers through floor books and with the local community through links with the local Church.