



St Nicholas' Primary and Nursery School

Live, Love, Learn & Be Happy

Religious Education (R.E)

Curriculum Intent

Through our RE curriculum we aim to extend children's social, spiritual, moral, environmental and cultural awareness within the school, the community and the world outside. We believe that by using an enquiry- based model in RE our children's critical thinking skills will be developed, their motivation to learn increased, and their knowledge, understanding and empathy with faiths enhanced. This approach takes very seriously the philosophy that children are free to make their own choices and decisions concerning religion and belief and promotes British values to ensure that children are aware of their rights and responsibilities as UK citizens.

Implementation

At St. Nick's we study Christianity plus one other religion in each year group, this means both religions have multiple enquiries throughout the year. This ensures that the children revisit prior learning for both religions throughout the year to build on the previous enquiries.

The implementation of RE learning at St. Nick's ensures depth, accurate subject knowledge, and that prior learning is built upon. Through weekly lessons and regular assemblies we advocate an enquiry model with a 4-step approach as the basis for implementation. Every unit is based around a key question. The key question for the enquiry is such that it demands an answer that weighs up 'evidence' (subject knowledge) and reaches a conclusion based on this.

In EYFS each enquiry poses a big question and helps children understand how people from one or several different religions or world views might answer it. The enquiry asks the children what they think and celebrates their choices and beliefs as individuals. The sessions are structured into 'interest me, help me learn and let's think'.

In KS1 and KS2, rather than knowledge being an end in itself, the children use their subject knowledge and apply it to the enquiry question. The focus is on critical thinking skills, personal reflection, growing subject knowledge and nurturing spiritual development.

The children start from their own experience to ensure understanding of the concept being studied and then move into investigating that concept from the view point of the chosen religion. This continues over three lessons of investigation and discussion throughout Step 2. These lessons not only support the children with embedding their RE knowledge, but also contribute to their oracy and critical thinking skills. In Step 3, the children complete an assessment activity to evaluate the question again in light of their new knowledge. In step 4 the children have further opportunities to embed their own reflections on the learning.

Impact

Through the RE learning our children are able to develop their critical thinking skills and appreciate and explore their own beliefs and of other's in their community and in the wider world. Our enquiry approach supports the children to confidently and skilfully hold balanced and well-informed ideas, thoughts and discussions about religion.

Acceptance

Appreciation

Caring

Creativity

Encouragement

Forgiveness

Honesty

Independence

Inspiration

Kindness

Respect

Teamwork