



# Religious Education at Whittington Primary School



Religious Education is unique in the school curriculum in that it is neither a core subject nor a foundation subject but the 1988 Education Act states that 'Religious Education has equal standing in relation to core subjects of the National Curriculum in that it is compulsory for all registered pupils'.

## Whittington Curriculum Drivers

**Inspired** – It is every child's entitlement to have access to the key concepts underpinning religions and beliefs, whether they are of that tradition or not. At Whittington, we follow the **Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus for teaching R.E.** Teachers will provide a challenging and stimulating R.E curriculum which engages pupils in the study of religion. Children will be inspired by religious stories and artefacts, visits and visitors.

**Articulate** – Children will be taught subject specific vocabulary and vocabulary linked to the unit of R.E being taught. Children will learn to express their insights applying their knowledge, and to agree and disagree respectfully. They will develop their religious literacy and participate positively in our society, with its diverse religions and beliefs.

**Ambitious** – Our teaching aims to ensure children develop an enquiring mind and key attitudes including curiosity and wonder, fairness, respect, commitment, self-understanding, critical mindedness and open-mindedness.

**Curious** – R.E. contributes dynamically to children's education by provoking challenging questions about meaning and purpose in life, beliefs about God, ultimate reality, issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human.

**Excited** – Children will be exposed to sacred music and art which are powerful sources as ways of understanding and expressing religion. Children will be given opportunities to visit places of religious significance. As a school, we aim to ensure pupils encounter people from different religious and philosophical groups who can express a range of convictions on religious and moral issues

**Knowledgeable** – R.E. is not about religious instruction it is religious education. Children are exposed to the 'material' of religious education which stands separately for study, exploration and critique. Children will be taught the knowledge in order to do this effectively and respectfully.



## Sequencing of Content

We follow the **Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus for teaching R.E.** This is carefully sequenced for progression. The plans clearly show progression through the age related expectations

The plans ensure that big ideas such as asking questions, exploring and researching are revisited throughout school.



## Big ideas

- Identify and ask questions
- Explore
- Identify
- Hear and respond
- Ask and respond imaginatively to questions
- Engage
- Compare and contrast
- Research
- Investigate
- Reflect
- Make links
- Investigate



## Deepening Concepts

Children will use their acquired knowledge to compare and contrast.

Children develop a good personal knowledge of underpinning concepts studied in the context of different religion and can apply it to their lives in a way that is meaningful to them.



## Retrieval Practice

Children take part in regular mini-quizzes and retrieval activities to strengthen their memory.

Remembering information and knowledge is celebrated and is part of the Whittington culture.

The plans ensure big ideas are continually revisited throughout school.