



Hintlesham and Chattisham CofE Primary School

Religious Education

Intent

The Church of England Education office state that “Religious education (RE) in a Church school should enable every child to flourish and to live life in all its fullness”. (John 10:10).

We intend for RE in our school to be true to our underpinning faith, but with a deep respect for the integrity of other religions, religious traditions (and worldviews) and for the religious freedom of each person. This will give the children the knowledge, understanding and skills they need to handle questions raised by religion and belief, and allow them to reflect on their own ideas and ways of living. At Hintlesham and Chattisham CofE Primary School we seek to create a Christian community based on Christian values, which are reflected throughout the life of the school. Our close link with the local church, enables our RE curriculum to be relevant, real and broad for our children, enabling them to develop an understanding of Christianity as the “heritage religion” of England and the one that most influences our school and community life.

The Big Ideas

Throughout the RE curriculum **faith, understanding, and acceptance** will be the common themes of learning and teaching, enabling our children to be thoughtful and tolerant members of a multicultural and diverse society.

Implementation

Religious Education (RE) is a core subject that lies at the heart of our curriculum. We believe that RE should be of the highest standard, always striving for excellence, and that it should reflect our school’s distinctive Christian character. RE is taught through the use of the Suffolk Agreed Syllabus and The Emmanuel Project produced by the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich from EYFS to Year 6. The agreed syllabus aims to ensure:

- that children are taught age appropriately and as they progress through school they build up a bigger picture, appreciation and understanding of religion.
- that children learn about religion AND from religion.
- different religions are studied across the school and these are linked to themes so that religions can be compared and contrasted.

RE is taught by studying one religion at a time (systemic units) and then including thematic units, which build on learning by comparing the religions, beliefs and practices studied. Teachers link with key dates and religious festivals, providing opportunities to celebrate festivals and religions with greater relevance and consistency and enhances a cross-curricular approach. There are 6 EYFS units which are taught over a

year. The KS1 and KS2 units run on a two-year cycle so in total, over every 2 years, children cover 12 units. The units being taught this year across our school can be seen on the Whole School Long Term plan for RE. Assessments are conducted at the end of each unit and progression is tracked throughout the year.

Learning is not always recorded in a formal written way. Children are given the opportunity to use discussion, drama and art to interpret and present their understanding in different ways. To further deepen learning, religious visitors are organised to talk to the children about their faith, festivals and beliefs. These visits provide the children with opportunities to ask questions and have hands on experiences through exploring artefacts. These visitors and trips are organised termly where appropriate, focusing on the topics that the children are studying.

Religious Education in the Early Years:

RE sits very firmly within the areas of PSED and UW. From an early age, the children at Hintlesham and Chattisham CofE Primary School learn to develop a positive sense of themselves, and others, and learn how to form positive and respectful relationships. They will do this through the Emmanuel Project scheme, encountering religious and non-religious worldwide views through special people, books, places and objects. The children will have the opportunity to listen to and talk about stories. They are introduced to subject-specific words and use all of their senses to explore beliefs, practices and forms of expression. In the Early Years, the children ask questions and reflect on their own feelings and experiences. They use their imaginations and curiosity to develop their appreciation of, and wonder at, the world in which they live. Our EYFS class creates and uses a class RE reflection scrap book. This includes key questions, answers, learning, photographs of role play that have taken place during a unit which can be reflected on by the children and in future lessons.

Impact

The children at Hintlesham and Chattisham CofE Primary School acquire a keen sense of enthusiasm as they learn about different religious and cultural backgrounds. The children's understanding and acceptance of differences and similarities between religions enables them to discuss issues respectfully and appreciate the diversity of the modern world. Children learn how to articulate their thoughts as they broaden their vocabulary and power of expression through high quality RE lessons taught at our school.