

Mendlesham Primary School

RE



Intent

The Religious Education curriculum at Mendlesham aims to give children the knowledge, critical thinking skills, open minded and respectful attitudes to investigate the world of religion and beliefs. It encourages them to make their own decisions about what this means to them, whilst empathising with what it means to hold those beliefs. It also aims to enable children to grow spiritually by developing their awareness and skills of reflection, their experience of awe and wonder and their appreciation of stillness and silence.

Our curriculum reflects the fact that religious traditions in Great Britain are, in the main, Christian, while taking account of the teaching and practices of other religions represented, as well as a secular view. As a rural, predominantly white, British community, RE exposes our children to the range of different religious beliefs and philosophies and how these have helped to shape society. Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) and British Values agenda is mapped on all plans to instil children with a better and more holistic understanding of modern British values, such as diversity, tolerance and respect.

Implementation

Through the programme Discovery, the six principle world religions are taught: Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism, Judaism and Buddhism. An enquiry-based approach teaches core beliefs and concepts by asking a 'big question'. Personal resonance engages children by encouraging them to reflect on their own experiences, which acts as bridge into the religion being studied. Investigations develop children's knowledge and understanding as they step into the world of religion and learn about it and the application of beliefs. Critical and evaluative thinking skills are developed before referring back to the starting point where children can express personal impact and opinions. Christianity is taught in every year group, with Christmas and Easter given new treatment each year, developing the learning in a progressive way. Regular revisits of existing knowledge occur throughout the year in the style of 'sticky knowledge quizzes'.

Impact

The impact of our enriched RE provision is the development of well-informed children with a strong sense of empathy and respect. We use a variety of different strategies to assess pupils understanding and robust formative assessment tracks progress each half term. These low stakes assessment methods allow children the opportunity to reflect on their learning and develop their understanding. Regular monitoring of books, planning and pupils' voice ensure the standard of religious education teaching remains consistently high.

Enrichment

Our enriched curriculum provides our children with a wealth of experience and opportunities, which complement and support the learning, which takes place in class. Children take part in inspirational trips to places of worship, for example, the local church, as well as receive visits from religious leaders. This helps us to develop open mindedness, acceptance and respect.

Full details of our curriculum can be found on our [website](#). Progression of knowledge and skills documents are available from the school.