

Religious Education - Subject Statement.

At Biddick Hall infant and Nursery school each of our Religious Education modules are planned and delivered in line with the South Tyneside Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education. The intention of our RE curriculum is to engage, inspire, encourage and challenge our pupils to think critically. Throughout a child's time at our school they will explore different religious beliefs, traditions and values. We aim to equip each child with the knowledge and understanding they need to answer challenging questions. RE also offers the opportunity for personal reflection as each module allows children to reflect upon their own personal beliefs, ideas, feelings, traditions and values whilst maintaining a mutual respect and tolerance for the diverse personal beliefs and faiths of others, a fundamental British value.

As a school we have adopted an enquiry based approach to the teaching of RE. This involves using a range of teaching and learning styles, including activities such as discussion, role-play, stories, games, problem-solving activities and the use of artefacts to engage and support the learning of pupils. We have also built strong links within both the local and wider community which allows us to invite visitors into our school and arrange educational visits where relevant to help enhance each child's learning experience. Throughout the year we also celebrate and participate in a number of events which further promote diversity and encourage acceptance.

RE is taught in block weeks and is taught to all children throughout both EYFS and KS1. Each of the RE units allow the children to build upon the knowledge and skills they have previously developed. Throughout Early Years the children will learn about special times, during this unit Children are introduced to the idea of special days and festivals within religions such as Harvest, Christmas, Easter and The Hindu festival of Diwali. Children will explore how such times are celebrated by the faith communities both within the home and within the wider community. The children will also reflect on any personal celebrations they have experienced and discuss and compare their own traditions to those they have been taught. They will then progress on to learn about special books. During this unit children are introduced to sacred books such as the Bible, Quran and Torah. Children will explore the stories and teachings taught through each of the special books and also learn about the importance of respecting sacred books within faith traditions. The children will also use this time to reflect on books which are important to them and discuss which books they have enjoyed reading so far. Following on from this the children will then learn about special places and places of worship. Children will explore what it is like inside a church and discuss the different Christian celebrations which are held within a church such as baptisms and weddings.

As the children progress into key stage one the children will continue to build upon the knowledge and skills they developed throughout both Nursery and Reception. They will continue to learn about religious celebrations such as Christmas and Easter alongside the Jewish celebrations of Shabbat and Hanukkah. Children will also build upon their understanding of special places exploring both the Church and the Synagogue. The children will also continue to read religious stories and begin to learn about individuals who are important within different religions. For example, children will explore why Jesus is important to Christians and Why Moses is special to Jewish people. Children will also part take in a diversity unit within KS1. This unit

will allow the children to explore local faith within our local community. Promoting acceptance and respect for others, issues which are reflect our own school ethos.