

# Religious Education

## Intent

As a Church of England School, the Christian faith is the foundations of everything that we do at Crosby-on-Eden C of E Primary School. We believe that it is important for all our pupils to learn from and about religion, so that they can understand the world around them. The aim of Religious Education in our school is to help children to acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and the other principal religions represented in Great Britain; to appreciate the way that religious beliefs shape life and behaviour; develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious issues and enhance their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Our R.E. curriculum is underpinned by the Cumbria Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education. Through R.E. our pupils will develop knowledge of significant religions, including Christianity, Islam and Hinduism through delivering a bespoke two-year rolling programme. Pupils will develop their abilities to articulate the beliefs and practices of the major religions. They will be taught to question thoughtfully, and to compare compassionately, in order to celebrate the diversity of thinking across the globe, whilst respecting the rights of others to hold diverse opinions and participate in culturally different practices.

We believe that it is fundamental for the children to belong to a safe and nurturing community, founded on strong Christian values where children will develop an array of skills that will enable them to make their own positive contribution to our global society.

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## Implementation

At Crosby C of E Primary School, it has been agreed that having taken into account the requirements and guidelines presented in the Cumbria Agreed Syllabus, the following religions have been selected for study:

- Christianity (EYFS, KS1 & 2)
- Islam (KS1 & 2)
- Hinduism (KS2)

Teachers will plan lessons that cover the knowledge and skills that are expected for each year group. Resources and planning will follow the Cumbria Agreed Syllabus for RE (2017) and other high-quality resources and planning will be used to supplement and enhance RE. These may include: Carlisle Diocese Units of Work, SACRE, CDEC and Twinkl.

Each RE unit will have a Knowledge Organiser (KS1 and 2). Teachers will use the document to map coverage and the children will use the Knowledge Organisers as a teaching resource to support their acquisition of knowledge in Religious Education.

Religious Education is taught throughout the school in such a way as to reflect the overall aims, values, and philosophy of the school. Our curriculum is designed to encourage creativity, imagination, enquiry, debate, discussion and independence. We encourage our pupils to ask questions about the world and to reflect on their own beliefs, values and experiences. We promote an environment which aims to enable all children, regardless of background, ability, additional needs, to flourish to become the very best version of themselves they can possibly be. We use a variety of teaching methods including art, music, discussion, the development of thinking skills, drama, the use of artefacts, pictures, stories, and the use of reflection. We are extremely lucky that members of the local church and NISCU, regularly visit our school to carry out Collective Worship and we can use the church as a resource.

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## Impact

Religious Education provokes challenging questions about the ultimate meaning and purpose of life, beliefs about God, the self and the nature of reality, issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human. It develops pupils' knowledge and understanding of Christianity, other principal religions, other religious traditions and other worldviews. It offers opportunities for personal reflection and spiritual development. It enhances pupils' awareness and understanding of religions and beliefs, teachings, practices and forms of expression, as well as of the influence of religion on individuals, families, communities and cultures.

The importance of Religious Education is that it encourages pupils to develop their sense of identity and belonging. It enables them to flourish individually within their communities and as citizens in a global community. Religious Education has an important role in preparing pupils for adult life, employment and lifelong learning. It enables pupils to develop respect for, and sensitivity to others; those whose faiths and beliefs are different from their own. It promotes discernment and enables pupils to combat prejudice.

Through RE, pupils will gain a broader understanding of different world religions which are not currently widely represented in our school and community demographic. This will enable children to understand, learn about and respect the wider world and other people and cultures other than their own.