

# RE

## Intent

We aim for the children of Parrett and Axe to grow spiritually by allowing an awareness of themselves and others and developing their skills of reflection. We underpin all we do within our core Christian values. These are taught within the context of Christian beliefs, practice and supported by 'Understanding Christianity'. We will focus on the spiritual development as well as the emotional, moral, social, cultural, physical and academic development of each unique individual enabling everyone to experience life in its fullness. Through our values, Kindness, Courage, Respect and Equality our children are taught to be compassionate and caring.

"Love your neighbour as yourself" (Luke 10 vs 27)

Throughout the school we teach RE to ensure pupils develop the knowledge, skills and understanding about some of the different religions around the world including Christianity.

It is our intention that pupils become more expert as they progress through the curriculum, accumulating and connecting substantive knowledge, Disciplinary Knowledge and personal knowledge:

Substantive knowledge - this is the subject knowledge and explicit vocabulary used to learn about the content

Disciplinary knowledge - pupils learn 'how to know' about religion and non-religion

Personal knowledge - pupils build an awareness of their own presuppositions and values about the religious and non-religious traditions they study

At Parrett and Axe we aim to deliver a Religious Education curriculum that is accessible to all and that will maximise the outcomes for every child so that they develop their knowledge and understanding about a range of religions.

As a result of this, they will become independent and responsible members of society who understand and explore big questions about life. They will learn about different beliefs, why people worship in the way they do and what difference this makes to how they live. This will help them to make sense of religion, reflect on their own ideas and ways of living.

We provide our children with opportunities to learn about and from religions and worldviews in local, national and global contexts, to discover, explore and consider different answers to questions. They will be equipped with systematic knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews, enabling them to develop their ideas, values and identities.

We offer a broad curriculum that encourages respect, tolerance and understanding of different faiths.

Our RE curriculum follows the agreed Diocese syllabus for RE, in line with the National Curriculum.

### Implementation

We are well supported by Beaminster Churches led by the Revd David Baldwin. He plays an active role in school life by providing whole school worship, working to support the pupil faith team meetings as well as contributing to our classroom teaching to support Understanding Christianity. We have close links with Mosterton Church as we attend services termly as well as using the church as a place of worship within the curriculum.

Our RE curriculum is taught on a two-year cycle. The curriculum includes Understanding Christianity as the main spiral theme with other religions woven into it to develop the children's wider understanding of the modern world we live in.

Children are introduced to Religious Education in the Early Years through learning about celebrations and festivals. This links with the Early Learning Goals of comparing similarities and differences between themselves and other people in the community. Children have the opportunity to retell stories they have heard, through role-play and small world within the classroom environments. Early Years Practitioners use observation to assess children's understanding of celebrations and festivals through conversations with the children and how these are linked to their own lives and family circumstances. Tapestry is used to capture these learning experiences. Further up the school in Key Stages 1 and 2, we provide a challenging and robust curriculum based upon Understanding Christianity supported by Discovery that adheres to the agreed Dorset Syllabus for Religious Education.

Children at Parrett and Axe are given the knowledge, critical thinking skills, open-minded and respectful attitudes with which to investigate the world of religion and belief, and make their own decisions about what this means to them, whilst empathising with what it means to those who hold those beliefs. Children will develop a variety of skills to encourage them to;

Ask good questions

Use specific language

Be able to express their own views and accept those of others.

Teachers are creative and experienced in adapting the suggested plans to meet the needs and interests of their class and to ensure lessons are practical with the opportunity to explore a range of sources including artefacts, websites

and texts. Religious Education subject leader will review the use of our class RE books/folders as well as using pupil voice and book studies to understand children's knowledge and recall and ensure consolidation of information from working memory to long-term memory. This will also ensure continuity and progression through the school.

### Impact

Our Religious Education curriculum ensures that children leave Parrett and Axe with the following:

- Know how to describe and make connections about different religions and world views.
- Able to describe and understand links between stories and other aspects of different communities.
- Open to exploring different beliefs, symbols and actions.
- Able to observe and understand varied examples of religions and worldviews.
- Understanding the challenges of commitment to a community of faith.
- Able to identify similarities and differences between beliefs and practices of the religions studied.
- Able to discuss and present thoughtfully their own views.
- Able to consider how diverse communities can live together.