

RE Policy

Intent

At Baldwins Gate, our Religious Education curriculum is designed to develop children's understanding of Christianity as a living faith that influences the lives of people worldwide.

In addition, children will learn about other faiths, and gain an informed understanding, respect and empathy for the beliefs of others, looking at similarities and differences between key beliefs and practices.

We aim to provide a safe space in which children will develop their ability to enquire, explore and critically reflect on their own beliefs, and empathise with alternative world views.

Through our Religious Education curriculum, we aim to encourage pupils to recognise the value of a religious journey of faith, and to develop their confidence in expressing their views and opinions in a reflective and sensitive manner.

Implementation

In their teaching of Religious Education at Baldwins Gate, teachers use the long-term plan as a starting point for their medium term planning. This will ensure that we are adhering to the Church of England's Statement of Entitlement (see RE policy), focusing on Christianity for two thirds of our curriculum time, using the Understanding Christianity resource, and on other faiths or world views for the remaining third.

In all our teaching of Religious Education we will ensure:

- In-depth study, whether of an aspect of Christianity or another faith or world view.
- Developing religious literacy, the ability to engage with religious texts and theological ideas.

In all areas of study, we will approach the topic using the three inter-related ERA strands:

- Explore The text and context (*Making sense of text* in UC).
- Relate How do the actions of the believer relate to the belief (*Understanding the impact* in UC).
- Apply How can I apply the belief to what I see of my life and the world around me? (*Making connections* in UC).

A variety of teaching methods are used to engage the interest and suit the ability of all pupils in the class. For example: presentations, discussions, question and answer sessions, independent or group research, role play and drama, arts and crafts activities, and educational visits. Evidence of these will be recorded either in the pupil's own book, or in the whole class RE book.

A range of resources will be used to bring the topic to life for the pupils, for example: sacred texts, works of art, music, costume and props, food and drink, audio and video recordings, and visitors to school.

Pupils are encouraged to bring and share their own experiences of the topics being studied, for example: photographs of their own christening or a wedding they have attended; prayer mats or prayer shawls, or other items related to their own religious beliefs.

Through high quality teaching, we develop the following essential characteristics in our pupils:

- Skills of enquiry, critical analysis and interpretation.
- An informed and respectful understanding of the key beliefs and practices of religious faiths and worldviews.
- The confidence to explore and express their own beliefs and reflect on how these are put into practice in their own lives.

Impact

The impact of the RE curriculum will be to develop children's knowledge and understanding of, and respect for, Christianity and other faiths and worldviews. They will be able to recognise the similarities and differences between a range of worldviews and make links with prior learning in RE, other subjects across the curriculum, and their own life experience. They will develop their ability to ask questions and reflect on their own beliefs and/or religious experience, having acquired the tools and vocabulary to do so. By the end of their time at Baldwins Gate, children will be expected to reach at least age-related academic expectations in RE, as well as becoming a well-rounded individual who is aware of some of the many worldviews in our society and able to engage thoughtfully and respectfully with these.