

Religious Education at Ladysmith Junior School

Intent

At Ladysmith we believe that Religious Education plays a crucial role in developing children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

The principal aim of RE is to explore what people believe and what difference this makes to how they live. Our aim is for pupils to gain the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to handle questions raised by religion and belief, reflecting on their own ideas and ways of living.

Implementation

At Ladysmith Junior School, we follow the local 'The Devon and Torbay Agreed Syllabus'. Through RE sessions, children learn about religious and non-religious world views in a local, national and global context. Children learn to weigh up the value of different sources, to develop their own insights in response and to learn how to agree or disagree respectfully.

Children learn through discussion, art, drama and debate and throughout these sessions will develop their skills of being able to articulate their personal beliefs, ideas, values and experiences while respecting the right of others to differ. We aim for all children to visit a place of religious or cultural significance each year. Where visits are not possible, children will explore artefacts and virtual visits to bring the subject to life. In KS2, children will have the opportunity to study in depth the religious traditions of the following groups: Christians, Muslims, Hindus and Jews. Children will also explore non-religious world views such as Humanism to ensure a balanced and inclusive curriculum.

The RE curriculum drawn up by a SACRE, 'shall reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, while taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain'.

According to case law, the agreed syllabus has a duty 'to take care that information or knowledge included in the curriculum is conveyed in a pluralistic manner' and 'must accord equal respect to different religious convictions, and to non-religious belief'.⁸ Note that the term 'religion' encompasses both religious and non-religious beliefs.⁹ As education policy changes, the legal requirement for RE for all registered pupils remains unchanged. RE is an entitlement for all pupils, unless they have been withdrawn by their parents from some or all of the RE curriculum.

Impact

Through the teaching of the RE curriculum, we hope that children gain a deeper understanding of the religious and non-religious worldviews in our local community. We hope children begin to develop their critical thinking skills, exploring the different ways we learn about others' views whilst gaining a better understanding of their own personal beliefs and values.

The RE Teaching and Learning Approach in Devon and Torbay:

