

## Religious Education at Spetisbury C.E. Primary School

At Spetisbury C.E. Primary School, Religious Education is one of our core subjects. We teach RE through a highly organised curriculum that covers the breadth of all world religions, using the very best in RE curriculum resources and expertise available. Our combined programme of 'Understanding Christianity' and 'Discovery RE' enables all children from Early Years through to Upper Key Stage 2 to gain knowledge, understanding and appreciation for the faiths, beliefs, cultures and practices of our modern world. The children find that they become religiously literate; tolerant and respectful of all peoples; compassionate towards others; having a greater understanding and appreciation of the world that we live in; a sense of personal responsibility; an awareness of personal belief with the opportunity to express their own ideas, thoughts, questions and independent lines of enquiry. Our Religious Education programme empowers children to become agents of change and to both embrace and impact the world around them and further afield. They are given permission and freedom to research, explore, question, evaluate and produce work that is of a high standard that stretches beyond a recount of facts and information; but into a record of work that shows depth of understanding, realisation of truths and the effect that it can have on each and every individual person's development, progress and advancement – physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually.

Our curriculum is based around six themes which run across the whole school – two of which are world religions; the third being Christmas and the Incarnation; another being Easter and the message of Salvation; and the remaining two being based around the concepts of Kingdom, Gospel and People of God. The lessons are taught weekly in every class with one hour devoted to the subject.

In addition, Religious Education will also be evident through our daily Collective Worship; our classroom reflection areas; our extra-curricular provision, such as 'One Way Club'; our Worship Team; and our Spirituality Council.

We want our children to leave Spetisbury CE Primary School, after their seven years of education with us, able to have an appreciation of the faiths of people; understand the role, impact and importance these beliefs, practices and traditions have on the lives of people; be aware and sensitive to the individual's choice of belief and faith – be it religious or non-religious; confident in expressing verbally and through study the themes, concepts and ideologies of religious thinking and their own personal convictions, opinions and practices. We want children to be able to substantiate their thinking with research, the opinions and viewpoints of others, personal experience and their own exploration of thought and decision. We likewise want our children to be able to consider the theologies and sources with an inquisitive mind and be able to

make highly informed choices and decisions, whilst being at liberty to consider and weigh up the information that is presented to them. Most of all, we want our children to have valued their education in Religious Education as a subject that was motivational, inspiring, influential, relevant and personally developing.

Within lessons at Spetisbury CE Primary School, you will see children being taught by teachers who engage powerfully with their subject and are knowledgeable on the material that they are teaching. You will see lessons that engage all learners and learning styles, building upon the opportunities to engage children visually, audibly, kinaesthetically, alongside interpersonal and intrapersonal communication. You will see children who are enthusiastic about the work that they are learning; able to build upon their prior learning; developing a greater understanding and being able to pull together different threads within the tapestry of religious appreciation. You will see children who express their thoughts, opinions, ideas and responses through written, oral, artistic, expressive and personal means with confidence; strength of mind and heart; an inquisitive hunger for greater understanding; and an appreciation for the inspiration and challenge that the subject brings. You will see children who have encompassed the joy of personal responsibility and development, who desire to share with one another and bring out the best in everyone. You will see children's work that shows deep understanding of theological and religious issues; a sense of personal response; and a rich and colourful variation of style.

We expect all children to be able to experience hands-on resources for every unit of work. We place value on the opportunities for children to experience a wide range of visitors and inspirational speakers who speak from first-hand experience about their own religious understandings, convictions, practices and beliefs. We look to provide opportunities to visit religious settings and we value the importance that Spetisbury CE Church can bring to the life of the children on a weekly basis. We expect children to engage with positive role models in promoting the values of both the school, British values, and those of the wider world. We likewise anticipate that children will develop both a personal and corporate vision for their time in school and for their futures.

In every classroom within our school you will see engaging and reflective displays that speak of the values of our school; the current theme of the religious education curriculum; and an area of reflection that corresponds not only to the theme and colour of the ecclesiastical church calendar, but also to the significant spiritual and religious development of our children at any given point of time. In addition, our classrooms have opportunities for personal response, a black book of spiritual moments, a candle, a Bible and a cross. The Lord's Prayer is also display along with the Understanding Christianity frieze that speak of the whole ethos and belief of the Christian faith.

Within the entrance ways, corridors and shared areas of our school, you will find places of reflection; examples of children sharing the vision and values of our school; motivational and inspiring verses, quotations, Bible verses and opportunities for celebration and thanksgiving. Our spirituality corner also empowers children to consider how life has mirrors, windows and doors; bringing reflection, opportunities to look upon the wider world, and the potential to step into and experience everything that comes from being a unique individual within God's world.

As a result of these steps all children are inspired to become the very best that they can be; to take hold of every opportunity that comes their way; be knowledgeable and religious literate of all that faith and belief brings and can offer; make a difference within their own life, their families, their communities and the world around them; grow personally in love, truth and compassion; recognise the injustices and significant causes that exist; reflect and develop their own beliefs and theologies; become a person of integrity, honour and responsibility; but most of all...to have had enjoyment, challenge and motivation in all aspects of their Religious Education journey at Spetisbury CE Primary School.

As Albert Einstein said: 'True religion is real living; living with all one's soul, with all one's goodness and righteousness.'

Mr. L. MorGan – Updated January 2022