Religious Education at Monken Hadley

Curriculum Intent

As a Church of England Voluntary Aided School, religious education is a core characteristic of our school life. Religious education provides time each week to study a world religion. As a Christian school, we spend 70% of this time studying Christianity and 30% studying the world's main faiths and religions (Islam, Judaisim, Hinduism, Buddhism and Sikhism). Through the study of Christianity, we allow children to build up religious literacy and confidence with the Bible as a reliable source for finding out about God's character; who he is and what he has done. Children's biblical literacy is developed further by sharing and discussing stories from the bible linked to each themed topic. Our school vision is at the heart of our school and this is expressed and explored in religious education.

At Monken Hadley we follow the London Diocese (LDBS) Scheme of Work. This is supplemented with additional resources, visits and guest speakers. As well as Christianity, each term children learn about a major world religion. Pupils are encouraged not simply to learn facts about other religions but to also reflect upon them and gain insights from them. Children will learn:

- how members of different faiths live as a community
- how other faiths worship

We aim for our children to be open-minded and questioning. Through the teaching of RE our children will show an understanding of how belonging to a faith provides guidance for their everyday living and respond empathetically.

Curriculum Implementation

We follow the LDBS RE scheme of work and it is intentionally taught in year groups which allows for smaller group teaching and age specific content. Key Stage 1 has a weekly lesson of an hour and Key Stage 2 a weekly session of 1.5 hours.

Each unit has a "Big Question" which the children explore, building upon their knowledge each week. Teachers use a wide range of learning opportunities using drama, role play, music, art, debate and collaborative learning to ensure "sticky" learning. Where possible units include guest speakers or relevant education visits to supplement the learning. There are further opportunities for children to develop biblical literacy via links to the half termly topics.

Lessons are differentiated enabling ALL children to access learning and contribute to the whole class learning experiences. Regular formative assessments against key criteria enables teachers to challenge and support children in their understanding. Our RE lessons are rich in content and varied in how they are delivered. Children are encouraged to question, to challenge and to make links within their own faith and understandings.

Curriculum Impact

Fundamentally, what we want is our children to enjoy RE and to be keen to find out more about faith and beliefs. We want children to feel they will be encouraged to research, independently, areas of interest. Supporting them will be a secure knowledge which has increased over time that can make cross curricular links. Importantly, standards in RE will be high.

We believe that children's understanding of different faith practices and beliefs will result in tolerance and an understanding of the differences in our society.