

What is religious education (RE)?

Religious Education (RE) is one of the three humanities; the other two being Geography and History. RE is important as it helps children to understand themselves and the world around them.

Foundation Stage:

Religious Education fits in to the Early Years Foundation Stage framework of Knowledge & Understanding of the World. The Reception Staff encourage children to get to know about other people, the places where they live and about all aspects of the environment. It is summarised into three categories: People and Communities; the World; and Technology.

Key Stage 1:

Key stage 1 are given plenty of opportunities to learn about different cultures, faiths and beliefs. They learn through assemblies, stories, discussion and activities.

The Aims of RE

Through the teaching of RE:

- Children encounter and respond to a range of stories, artefacts, and other religious materials. The children look at traditional bible tales and compare different stories of creation;
- They encounter and respond to a range of stories, artefacts and other religious materials;
- They learn to recognise that beliefs are expressed in a variety of ways, and begin to use some related vocabulary;
- They ask relevant questions and develop a sense of wonder about the world using their imaginations;
- They talk about what is important to them and others, valuing themselves, reflecting on their own feelings and experiences and developing a sense of belonging.

The RE Curriculum

Here are a few approaches to RE in each year group:

Reception:

- Talking about belonging in a family, class and school
- Learning about autumn festivals: Diwali, Eid, and Christmas among others
- Learning about actions and consequences; discussing and using the idea of right and wrong.

Year 1:

- Exploring characters, events and symbols of the Christmas story
- Finding out about naming ceremonies in Christianity, Islam, and Sikhism.
- Exploring and reflecting upon the wonderful world we live in.

Year 2:

- Sharing books that are special to us; comparing and learning about the Bible, Quran, Torah, Guru Granth Sahib and others.
- Finding out about people, places, stories and rituals which are important to people of faith.

How can you help?

Throughout the school year we celebrate as many religious festivals as we can. We enjoy learning with the children and encapsulating their family's religions and cultures into our learning.

At some points in the year we offer collapse days. During these days we dedicate the whole day to learning about a particular festival, faith or culture. We welcome any Parents'/Carers' suggestions or support for themed days.

Here are some ways you can help your child learn about RE:

- Read books that feature different cultures and religions. Eg Handas Surprise, Eat up Gemma
- Talk to your child about their heritage, culture and the family's religious beliefs.
- Visit places of worship.
- Encourage your child to talk about their opinions and thoughts. This encourages self worth and a sense of identity.
- Explore alternative supermarkets or speciality foods in the supermarket and discuss their origin.



Celebrating children's family culture and traditions



For more information please contact the following ...

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Summerhill Infant School

Religious Education



This leaflet aims to give you a brief overview of Religious Education at Summerhill Infant School.