

St John and St James

RE

Jesus said, 'I have come that you may have life-life in all its fullness.' John 10:10



RE is a core and academic subject at St John and St James. We use an enquiry based curriculum, centred around big questions that enable pupils to develop their knowledge and understanding of Christianity, other World faiths and world views. RE provides all pupils with the opportunity to ask deeper questions and to begin to express their own views in response to the material they learn about and in response to questions about their ideas. Two thirds of the RE curriculum is based on the teaching of Christianity and one third based around major world faiths.

During Foundation Stage

Nursery and Reception follow the same unit of work each half term, with a focus on the Bible as a special book for Christians. The units are Who made the wonderful world and why?, Why is Christmas special for Christians?, Why do Christians believe Jesus is special?, What is so special about Easter?, Who cares for this special world? And How did Jesus rescue people?

Children also find out about celebrations and special days throughout the year including Diwali, Chinese New year, Eid, and Birthdays.

By the end of the EYFS Children can talk about the role they can play in taking care of the world, name some religious objects and talk about things that are special to them. They can talk about some of the stories and people in the Bible and begin to retell some religious stories.

During Key Stage 1

The Christianity units in year 1 and 2 help children to understand the importance of looking after our world and some of the core Christian beliefs and practices such as following 'Gods rules for living', prayer, making promises before God and how actions can be influenced by understanding some of the stories Jesus told. The core theological concepts of Incarnation and Salvation are taught at an age appropriate way helping children to know what happened at, and the importance for believers of Christmas and Easter.

Judaism and Islam are taught in year 1 and 2. The world faith units explore the main teaching and beliefs of the faith, beliefs and practices and the impact they have on the life of the believer, how key festivals within the faith are celebrated within the faith community.

Children in KS1 will have a visitor from a world faith visiting them and will also visit St Johns church.

The outcomes for children at the end of KS1 will be that they can retell a religious story and say what a believer might learn from it. They can describe why a particular religious' artefact is important to a believer and what they are used for. They can talk about how a believers' beliefs can influence how they live their lives. They can listen and respond sensitively to what other

During Key Stage 2

Two thirds of the curriculum is based on the teachings of Christianity and the units covered help children to know about and understand Christianity as a living world faith and help children to consider the impact and connection that Christianity has on Britain's cultural heritage and the lives of people worldwide.

The Christian units address different aspects of Christian theology, such as Creation, Fall, People of God, Incarnation, Gospel, Salvation, and Kingdom of God, addressing the theological concepts at an age appropriate level. Children will be able to be critical thinkers who can engage with Biblical text, asking deep questions about things they find puzzling.

The world faith units covering, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Sikhism are planned to help pupils develop knowledge and understanding of major world religions and world views and their impact on society and culture. Children explore the main teaching, beliefs and practices of the religion and the impact they have on the life of the believer, and how key festivals within the faith are celebrated within the faith community. Children are encouraged to make connections within and across religions and worldviews

3 thematic units are studied in Upper KS2. These are 'The journey of life and death', 'Understanding faith in St John and St James school', and 'Who

	<p>people believe and begin to talk about what they believe.</p>	<p>decides?’ Children can apply their knowledge and understanding of all the religions and worldviews to key concepts and to make connections within and across the Faiths.</p> <p>At the end of KS2 we want to enable all children to become religiously literate. What does this look like? We want our children when they leave year 6, to have the ability to make their own choices and decisions concerning religion and belief, based on deep knowledge and understanding of religions and worldviews, belief systems, values and practices.</p>
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<p>Planning</p> <p>Staff plan from each LDBS units of work set out in the long term plan. They are organised so there is a progression of knowledge as children move up the school. There is a clear progression within core concepts eg Salvation so each year children will build on their prior knowledge as they meet the concept in different year groups.</p> <p>Within every unit of learning the following steps take place as part of the learning process:</p> <p>ENQUIRE: Children engage with a big and subsidiary questions which focuses on theology. What are the big theological questions which are being explored?</p> <p>INVESTIGATE/EXPLORE: What is the religious content and context being explored? The explore stage is where children are learning about religion and belief.</p> <p>EVALUATE/COMMUNICATE: What is the understanding of the concept? What impact does the concept have on the lives of believers? The focus needs to be on the impact of the belief or practice on the religious or belief community being studied?</p> <p>REFLECT ON/EXPRESS: What is the children’s understanding and response to the enquiry question when considered from the perspective of the faith and belief traditions that have been looked at? What is the children’s personal response? This should always be based on knowledge and understanding.</p>	<p>Teaching</p> <p>RE is a core subject at St John and St James, given equal status with other National Curriculum subjects. Our approach to teaching RE is based on our vision of children living ‘ Life in all its fullness’ so our exciting and engaging curriculum encourages children to consider challenging questions of the meaning and purpose of life, beliefs about God, the self and the nature of reality, issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human.</p> <p>The Governors of St John and St James have adopted the LDBS RE Syllabus as the curriculum for the teaching of RE.</p> <p>Teachers use the LDBS units of learning and adapt them so that lessons are tailored to meet the needs of all children, including those with SEND. The LDBS syllabus is designed to have content that is two thirds Christian and one third other major world faiths.</p> <p>The following strategies are used in RE lessons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborative learning Use of artefacts Visits and visitors Multimedia Cross-curricular links eg role play, drama, music, poetry and dance Silence and reflection Differentiated activities appropriate for the pupils’ knowledge and understanding in RE <p>Excursions and Incursions</p> <p>Visits to places of worship (virtual or in person) are planned to support specific units of learning for each year group in KS1 and KS2.</p> <p>Visitors from the world faiths which are being studied are invited into school or can be interviewed online.</p>
<p>Marking and feedback</p> <p>Children receive feedback from teachers in line with the schools marking policy and next step questions provide opportunities for children to reflect and deepen their understanding.</p> <p>Teachers use the LDBS assessment questions to monitor pupils’ progress in RE which is then added to the school’s data management system.</p>	

Assessment

Formative:

Children's understanding is assessed against the Learning Intention for the lesson and next step questions provide children with the opportunity to apply what they have learned.

Summative:

In KS1 the unit knowledge is completed as a class to assess what the children already know, what they want to find out and then at the end of the unit they add the key things they have learned. At the end of every unit of learning children are also assessed against the LDBS assessment questions.

EYFS:

In Nursery and Reception observations are made of children's Individual responses to the different units. Eg Children are able to talk about how Jesus rescued people who were afraid, children can apply this to their own experiences and say when they felt afraid.

Resourcing and display

Resources are stored centrally and include artefacts and books to support each world faith. Bibles and other reference books are kept in the RE section of the school library. There is a whole school RE display highlighting current learning.

Working wall:

All classes have a designated RE display which has the current 'Big question', subsidiary questions and key vocabulary. Relevant books and artefacts can be included in the area. Examples of children's work can be displayed. Discussions and practical sessions are recorded in the whole class RE book.

Other Events

Some of the units lend themselves to organising different charity events through the year. As part of their unit children in EYFS raise money for Christian Aid, year 2 raise money for Water Aid. Cross curricular RE days help to provide exciting and memorable learning. The Spirited Arts project successfully linked Art, RE and Literacy and takes place in the Summer term.

Monitoring

Standards and achievement in RE are monitored by the RE leader, LDBS link Advisor and Senior Leadership Team to ensure there is coverage and progression through learning walks, lesson observations, sampling of books and discussions with staff and pupils. Books are marked in line with the schools marking policy. RE books are monitored 3 times a year and feedback given to individual teachers. The RE leader is available to give support and advice to staff.