



Religious Education

Curriculum Statement





Intent

At Loxdale we believe Religious Education enables pupils to discover, explore and consider answers to questions about different ways of life. In EYFS pupil's immediate families and communities open their eyes to understanding the world around them. At Loxdale, we strengthen children's understanding of cultures and beliefs through high quality planning and provision. This can be seen through play and using pupil's own experiences and questions as starting points. Children's knowledge of world religions and worldviews grow with greater understanding through our curriculum. Children develop skills and knowledge that can be transferred to other areas of the curriculum and can be used to contribute to spiritual, cultural, moral and social development; these include learning about different people's faiths, reflecting on their own beliefs and working with others from different backgrounds. We use thought provoking questions to provide thorough engagement which give rich discussion about the meaning and significance of existence. This gives pupils the ability to ask significant and highly reflective questions about religion and demonstrate an excellent understanding of issues related to the nature, truth and value of religion. At Loxdale, children are provided with opportunities to recognise that those who do not hold religious beliefs still have their own philosophical perspectives. For example, RE encourages pupils to develop a sense of identity to flourish individually within their community and as citizens in a plural society and global community. Our RE curriculum helps develop the Commando Joe Character Curriculum by incorporating such values as respect and empathy towards others, those with faiths and beliefs different from their own to combat prejudice. It also helps develop self-awareness allowing pupils to understand their place in the world. The subject allows application of thinking skills, enquiry and creative learning. The curriculum is designed to develop knowledge and skills that are progressive. Significant levels of originality, imagination or creativity, which are shown in children's responses to their learning in RE.



Implementation

RE is taught in blocks throughout the year in accordance with the Wolverhampton Agreed Syllabus. Early Years pupils encounter religions and world views through exploring special people, books, places, and objects. They use their imagination and curiosity to develop their appreciation of the world in which they live in, all in a safe and inclusive environment where children learn that everyone is different. Teachers have identified the key knowledge and skills of each blocked topic and consideration has been given to ensure progression across topics throughout each year group across the school. At the beginning of each topic, children address what they would like to find out from the topic by completing a front cover. This informs the programme of study and also ensures that lessons are relevant and take into account children's interests. Consideration is given to how greater depth will be taught, learnt and demonstrated within each lesson, as well as how learners will be supported in line with the school's commitment to inclusion. Cross-curricular opportunities arise in different forms. There are weekly assemblies, workshops, visits to places of worship, visitors to school from a cross section of different faiths and regular collective worship.

Impact

Outcomes in books and pupil interviews show a balanced curriculum, which demonstrates children's acquired knowledge. Children also record what they have learned comparative to their starting points at the end of every topic. In the Nursery and Reception, the staff give positive messages to children about people's views, customs, and religions that are celebrated and respected. As well as helping younger pupils to develop an understanding of themselves and others. Our children leave EYFS with a developing, enquiring mind ready to learn further knowledge in KS1. As children progress throughout the school, they develop a deep knowledge and appreciation of different world religions in the context of the school, local area and wider world. RE builds children's self-awareness as well as children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. This is further supported by links to PSHE lessons and implementation of the British Values. Children further understand the experience of different faith groups, their key beliefs and respect the religious beliefs and practices of different faith groups in their community and beyond through visits to local places of worship. Collective worship and classroom prayer time helps children to reflect on differences in values and attitudes, and how tolerance of religious beliefs help make us a collaborative and cohesive community. Workshops and visitors from various faith groups help children to transfer their skills, develop respect for others and understand beliefs that may be different from their own in the context of the wider world.