



Religious Education

Rational

At Pens Meadow we aim to develop an appreciation of the way religious beliefs shape people's lives and pupil's rights and responsibilities as citizens in the United Kingdom. Beginning in the EYFS, we build upon our pupil's natural curiosity about the world around them.

Our RE curriculum is a conceptualised curriculum based upon up-to-date research about how children learn as well as how to meet the ranging needs of learners with complex difficulties. It builds upon the expectations of Birth to Five Matters and the National Curriculum whilst reflecting the views of all school stakeholders at Pens Meadow School. These documents have been carefully broken down into meaningful components and carefully sequenced to enable pupils to revisit and review previous learning and build upon their developing understanding.

Curriculum coverage has been planned to ensure that pupils develop their knowledge, skills and understanding about identified religions and their beliefs up to key stage four. At key stage five, pupils continue to develop their awareness of diversity through our Pens Meadow Challenge and by developing leaver's passports and presentations.

Our cyclic approach, to RE curriculum coverage, ensures that all pupils have opportunities to develop their knowledge progressively as they move through school, whilst revisiting key content ensuring learning is embedded.

Our RE progression document enables learning to be pitched at individual pupil's zone of challenge in line with their development level enabling the planning of accurate end points and targeted progress.

In our lower, middle, and upper phases RE is taught for six hours during week six in our curriculum blocks. This gives pupils a block of time to focus and reflect on their learning in a continuous manner over the week.

Intent

At Pens Meadow School we aim for our pupils to develop a natural curiosity and an understanding of the world around them whilst preparing them for life beyond school. Our holistic approach to SMSC, British Values and Community Cohesion, which are threaded through out our whole curriculum, prepare our pupils for living in a diverse, global community sharing their views of the world with an understanding of the views of others.

Pupils are supported to develop their own informed decisions and develop confidence to voice their own views through exploring the commonality and diversity of belonging and the concept of community. Our curriculum has been designed with our pupils at its heart and the substantive knowledge content has been carefully considered to support pupil's knowledge of various religions and non-religious traditions. Initially pupils build an understanding of their own beliefs and place in the world before finding out about a range of cultures and religions. They then focus on the main religions of Christianity, Hinduism, Sikhism, Islam, Buddhism and Judaism before reflecting on how their learning has impacted on their own beliefs and understanding of the world.

Throughout the RE curriculum pupils are also given opportunities to learn how to know about religious and non-religious beliefs and supported to build upon their own personal knowledge through developing an awareness of the values of what they have studied.

We ensure that our pupils are provided with rich, high-quality learning that aims to:

- Enable pupils to communicate their understanding and interest in religious education through carefully adapted experiences supported by a total communication environment.
- Support our pupils to make links in the world around them and prepare them for life in a world where there are multiple viewpoints.
- Explicitly teach linked vocabulary alongside new knowledge.
- Support pupils to understand that they are part of a multi-faith society and build positive attitudes towards people of any religion understanding culture beliefs different from their own.
- Develop respectful behaviours which are transferable in the local and wider community including having a positive sense of themselves and others.
- Develop an understanding of what people believe and celebrate and the differences this makes to the way they live.
- Express their own ideas, ask simple questions, reflect on their own beliefs, and respond to what they discover.
- Enable pupils to visit religious places of worship should they wish to.

