

Religious Education (R.E) Curriculum overview

God is the leader of Verwood CE First School

Religious Education helps give pupils the tools to examine all claims of belief. It provokes challenging questions about the ultimate meaning and purpose of life, it challenges pupils to learn from the experience of people from religions and from non-religious believers and it helps them to rediscover and be confident in their own sense of identity.

RE plays an important role in preparing pupils for adult life, employment and lifelong learning. It helps children and young people become successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens. It gives them the knowledge, skills and understanding to discern and value truth and goodness, strengthening their capacity for making moral judgements and for evaluating different types of commitment to make positive and healthy choices.

The teaching of RE lies at the heart of our Christian School. Unlike other subjects R.E. is not in the National Curriculum. It is, however, a core subject. We support the aims of the Dorset SACRE agreed Dorset Syllabus, which states: *The principal aim of RE in Dorset is to engage pupils in enquiring into big questions arising from the study of religion, belief, philosophy and ethics. In so doing Religious Education will support pupils' own personal moral, philosophical, ethical and spiritual development and promote respect for others.*

At Verwood First School, we follow the Dorset SACRE agreed RE syllabus. We use an inquiry approach, thinking about the big questions that arise from the study of religion, belief, philosophy and ethics. We focus mainly on Christianity but also units on Judaism in KS1 and KS2 and Islam in in KS2. To support our teaching of Christianity we use the Understanding Christianity resource. Every year group experiences RE through lessons which are assessed half termly to ensure that the learning meets the needs of the children.

At Verwood CE First school we aim that Religious Education will:

- Provoke challenging questions about the ultimate 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.
- Develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of Christianity, other principal religions and other religious traditions and world-views.
- Encourage pupils to develop their sense of identity and belonging.
- Enable them to flourish individually within their communities.
- Encourage pupils to develop the ability to be still, to think deeply, to reflect and to appreciate times of stillness and of silence.
- Challenge pupils to reflect on, consider, analyse, interpret and evaluate issues of truth, belief, faith and ethics and to communicate their responses.
- Have an important role in preparing pupils for adult life, employment and lifelong learning.
- Enable them to develop respect, empathy and sensitivity to others, in particular those whose faiths and beliefs are different from their own.