

## What does Religious Education look like at Vicarage Primary School?

At Vicarage Primary school we teach Religious Education through the Newham agreed syllabus. We aim to develop pupil's knowledge of the world, and their understanding and awareness of the beliefs, values and traditions of other individuals, societies, communities and cultures.

We believe that it is important for all our pupils to learn about all the religions, to better understand the world around them. We celebrate the major religious festivals, including: Christmas, Eid, Diwali and Guru Nanak's Birthday. As part of our school and community values we emphasise tolerance, respect and understanding as a significant aspect of the teaching of major world faiths and beliefs, including those without a faith, in Modern Britain and the world.

While planning lessons, teachers ensure that cross curricular links are made across other subjects. For example, long writing pieces are cooperated into lessons so that pupils have the opportunity to write down their ideas, opinion and views in a structured task (diary entries, letters or even stories). Teachers also encourage drama work to reinforce teaching points and allow pupils to express themselves about a particular topic. These drama activities can increase pupils' confidence and provide valuable opportunities for personal and spiritual exploration.

We encourage pupils to ask questions about the world and to reflect on their own beliefs and expectations. Our Religious Education curriculum is enhanced further with visits to places of worship in our local area.

Our RE curriculum is based on six key threshold concepts,

Belonging	Self-Reflection	Identity
Change	Celebration	Tolerance

These key concepts are the 'big ideas' which run as threads through the curriculum. The same key concepts are explored and revisited in each unit of work in every year group. This enables pupils to build on prior knowledge, deepen their contextual knowledge and always working towards the bigger picture of achievement at the end of each year group or phase.

All year groups visit at least 1 or 2 places of worship a year, and all year groups have visitors from different faiths who host talks and workshops with the children. The visitors are mainly from the borough so that children recognise the multi-faith, multicultural community that they are part of.

An act of Collective Worship takes place every day and is an important part of school life, making space for pupils and staff to come together and share learning through stories, music, reflection and a prayer.

## What do the children enjoy about Religious Education at Vicarage Primary School?

"I like that we learn about different religions and how they celebrate their religious festivals, like Christmas, Easter, Eid and Diwali".

"I really enjoyed visiting the Mosque and seeing how Muslims pray and follow their faith".

## Religious Education at Vicarage School

### *Examples of learning and enrichment activities at Vicarage Primary School.*

At Vicarage Primary school, a range of activities take place to enhance pupils learning;

- ❖ Visits to places of worship
- ❖ Faith in School workshops/ lessons
- ❖ Easter bonnet parade
- ❖ Places of worship competition
- ❖ Dress-up days to celebrate festivals
- ❖ Invite Religious Leaders from our community to come I and share their roles and responsibilities
- ❖ Harvest collection – working in partnership with Bonny Downs

## Reasons for learning Religious Education

Religious Education has a vital role in developing pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness. It promotes respect and open-mindedness towards others with different beliefs and encourages pupils to develop their sense of identity and belonging through self-awareness and reflection.

### We measure the impact of our curriculum through the following methods:

- ✓ **Pupil conferencing** – Are children happy, engaged, motivated to do well, challenged? Do they know more? Can they remember more?
- ✓ **Assessment** – Pre and post learning sheets completed at the end of each topic to assess pupil's understanding, knowledge and skills. The information from assessments will be used to inform leaders of school improvements or skills that need to be further enhanced.
- ✓ **Book Looks** – Are all children making at least sufficient progress from their various starting points?  
Images and videos of pupil's practical learning.
- ✓ **Lesson Visits** – Quality of teaching and learning is good to outstanding
- ✓ **Parent surveys** – Are parents happy with the curriculum we provide, if not – how can we improve?
- ✓ **Subject portfolio** – Can you see progression of skills and knowledge across the school? Is the curriculum ambitious and goes beyond the National Curriculum?

