



Intent

At Oak Hill Academy, we believe that it is important for our children to learn about and from different religions, to maximise their ability to know, remember and understand more about the world around them. The aim of Religious Education (RE) in our school is to help children to enquire and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and the other principal religions represented in Great Britain; to appreciate the way that religious beliefs shape life and behaviour, develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues and enhance their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. As a result of this, they will become independent and responsible members of a society, who understand and explore challenging, big questions about life that will provoke their critical thinking skills and ideas about morality. Our inquiry-based approach to teaching RE allows pupils to develop positive attitudes to the beliefs and values of themselves, while engaging empathetically with individuals and communities beliefs in our modern world. Moreover, this links RE at Oak Hill deeply with Wellness and British Values, allowing for our children to put religious and philosophical ideas in the context of their own lives. We intend to design RE as a curriculum subject which results in children having an awareness and tolerance of living in a multicultural society and being mutually respectful towards the beliefs of others.



Implementation

At the beginning of each half-term at Oak Hill, a *Whole School Big Question* is introduced during the RE lessons. This is a topical, essential enquiry question that hooks children into their units of study to spark meaningful connections with prior learning and develop creative thinking. The question links closely to the allocated attainment target (learning about and from religion). Using elements of the Agreed Syllabus for RE in the London Borough of Hounslow called *Widening Horizons*, we have developed a progressive curriculum that allows pupils to develop a deep understanding of the following religions and worldviews as units of work, across three half terms: Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism Buddhism, Sikhism, Humanism and Philosophy. RE is taught in block units within a term, to develop pupils' ability to know more and remember more in the transitions from monotheistic religions, polytheistic religions, ethical non-theistic traditions and worldviews.

During teaching, we focus on each group's unit of work including:

- Reference to the Whole School Big Question and other, leading Big Questions about what they will be learning and what they have been taught in previous year groups, to show how this builds upon their previous learning.
- Opportunities to provide feedback and consolidation from previous learning, using a variety of teaching strategies, including circle time.
- A range of religious stories and reading.
- Realistic and relevant information, and specific key vocabulary and its meaning.
- Opportunities for the children to work interactively, using other curriculum areas e.g. music, drama, art, with the teacher acting as the facilitator.
- Individual reflection/thoughtfulness on the learning.
- Opportunities for mindfulness, positive mental health and well-being.

At Oak Hill, children are informed/taught about a variety of religious festivals/specific days of focus e.g. World Kindness Day, Wellness Day or Human Rights Day that take place throughout the year to demonstrate how people with different religious beliefs and views live and worship alongside each other. As part of our curriculum, there will be whole-school assemblies, visits from Religious leaders/Community members, community walks to our local church and visits to other places of worship.



Impact

Our progressive curriculum equips pupils with awe and wonder, enquiry and positive attitudes. The children of Oak Hill Academy enjoy learning about other religions and why people choose, or choose not to follow a religion. Through intellectual and emotional engagement, pupils consider those around them, what they do and do not believe and how this impacts them in terms of their own acceptance and tolerance and British Values. Through their R.E. learning, the children are able to make links between their own lives and those of others in their community and in the wider world, developing an understanding of other people's cultures and ways of life. From our assessment, we seek to ensure children will make good progress from their last point of statutory assessment and demonstrate respectful behaviour to all.

