

Willow Tree Academy



- Religious Education Statement of Intent -

Intent

At Willow Tree Academy, RE has a significant role for the development of our pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Therefore, we promote respect and open-mindedness towards others with different faiths and beliefs and encourage pupils to develop their sense of identity and belonging through self-awareness and reflection. Our principle aim of teaching RE is to engage pupils in an enquiry approach where they can develop an understanding and appreciation for the beliefs, cultural practices and influence of principle religions, faiths and worldviews in the local, national and wider global community.

The key aims for religious education are to provide pupils with :

- Rich knowledge of religion and world views
- Expression of ideas
- Skills to investigate religions and world views

Implementation

Experiences and enrichment opportunities across the Willow Tree Academy through our cultural capital offer:

- handling artefacts
- exploring sacred texts
- using imaginative play or drama to express feelings and ideas
- responding to images, games, stories, art, music and dance
- meeting visitors from local religious communities
- making visits to religious places of worship where possible, and where not, making use of videos and the internet
- taking part in whole school events - (multi-faith days, Harvest Festival, school performances)
- participating in moments of quiet reflection
- using ICT to further explore religion and belief globally
- comparing religions and worldviews through open discussion
- using P4C for debate and communicating religious belief, worldviews and philosophical ideas and answering and asking ultimate questions posed in these sessions

Willow Tree Academy - SoW

Following the SoW from EYFS through to Year 6, pupils are encouraged to investigate and consider their findings for the different faiths and religions they are taught. They discover, explore and consider many different answers to questions about human identity, meaning and value. They learn to weigh up for themselves the value of wisdom from different communities, to disagree respectfully, to be reasonable in their responses to religions and world views and to respond by expressing insights into their own and others' lives. They think rigorously, creatively, imaginatively and respectfully about their ideas in relation to religions and world views. Pupils

are therefore more informed to be able to consider the impact of beliefs and practices in greater detail and respond to more philosophical questions.

Pupils should be taught to:

A. Know about and understand a range of religions and world views, so that they can:

- Describe, explain and analyse beliefs and practices, recognising the diversity which exists within and between communities;
- Identify, investigate and respond to questions posed by, and responses offered by some of the sources of wisdom¹ found in religions and worldviews;
- Appreciate and appraise the nature, significance and impact of different ways of life and ways of expressing meaning.

B. Express ideas and insights about the nature, significance and impact of religions and world views, so that they can:

- Explain reasonably their ideas about how beliefs, practices and forms of expression influence individuals and communities;
- Express with increasing discernment their personal reflections and critical responses to questions and teachings about identity, diversity, meaning and value.
- Appreciate and appraise varied dimensions of religion.

C. Gain and deploy the skills needed to engage seriously with religions and world views, so that they can:

- Find out about and investigate key concepts and questions of belonging, meaning, purpose and truth, responding creatively;
- Enquire into what enables different communities to live together respectfully for the wellbeing of all;
- Articulate beliefs, values and commitments clearly in order to explain reasons why they may be important in their own and other people's lives.

Impact

The impact of being taught this curriculum should enable children to:

- extend their knowledge and understanding of different religions, faiths and beliefs
- develop a religious vocabulary and interpret religious symbolism in a variety of forms
- reflect on questions of meaning, offering their own thoughtful and informed insights into religion and secular world-views
- explore ultimate questions of beliefs and values in relation to a range of contemporary issues in an ever-changing society

The impact of the Willow Tree Academy RE curriculum comes directly from the pupils. By gathering the pupils' voice on the subject and also using summative assessment. We can then take action to continue to further develop our RE curriculum.

