



NEW MILLS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Religious Education Programme of Study

Religious Education is an important element in the broad and balanced curriculum that we offer at New Mills Primary School. Through our RE curriculum, we provide opportunities to develop children's knowledge and understanding of world religions and reflect on the challenging questions that it provokes. It is our aim that pupils develop their experiences of religions, providing opportunities for personal reflection where they can explore their own beliefs and world views (not necessarily religious).

We aim to provide creative and stimulating lessons that encourage children to appreciate and respect the similarities and differences in today's cultural society.

National Curriculum

The National Curriculum for RE aims to ensure that all pupils are offered a curriculum which is:

- balanced and broadly based
- promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society
- prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

The R.E. curriculum enables children to meet the expectations set by Derbyshire Agreed Syllabus for R.E. At New Mills Primary School teachers follow the Curriculum Maestro scheme.

<https://schoolsnet.derbyshire.gov.uk/site-elements/documents/teaching-learning-and-school-governance/curriculum-and-assessment/derbyshire-and-derby-city-agreed-syllabus-2020-2025.pdf>

Intent

At New Mills Primary School we aim to make Religious Education challenging, inspiring and fun. We want pupils to develop rich knowledge of religions and world views and use this to increase their levels of religious literacy and conceptual understanding. We encourage children to articulate, with confidence, their own ideas about religion, beliefs and spirituality. Lessons help them to gain a greater understanding of morality, social justice and care for the environment. Promoting social and ethnic harmony is very important at New Mills Primary and our RE curriculum aims to make a significant contribution to this.

Through the exploration of world religions and through a deepening understanding of beliefs and practices, we support our pupils to come to informed and empathic understandings of different ways of life and points of view.

We provide opportunities in RE for creative cross-curricular development. Our aim is to provide an ambitious curriculum that sequences the learning to enable pupils to deploy a rich knowledge of religions effectively. We want RE to be an exciting subject that contributes to learners' lives, preparing them for active citizenship in a diverse and rapidly changing world.

Implementation

At New Mills Primary School, the teaching of Religious Education reflects the overall aims and values of the school. Teachers use Curriculum Maestro to ensure the delivery, sequences and coverage of lessons. Lessons are taught through the implementation of a whole school R.E. day to promote the subject and to allow for engaging cross-curricular learning opportunities. This is followed by three subsequent R.E. lessons to build on the children's knowledge and understanding. With the aim to develop their ability to express ideas and insights based on the religion taught.

In line with the school's approach to the wider curriculum delivery, Religious Education explores enquiry and questioning which aims to challenge their thinking.

In the EYFS children learn about RE through their 'Personal, Social and Emotional' development and their 'Understanding of the World'. Opportunities for teaching RE include: activities in continuous provision; discussions during discrete carpet sessions; and incidental conversations for example during story time.

Across KS1 and KS2, the children learn about different faiths including Christianity, Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism, Judaism and Sikhism. Children explore and describe a range of beliefs, symbols and actions so that they can understand different ways of life and ways of expressing meaning, including personal viewpoints and opinions. We encourage our pupils to share their experiences and to learn from one another. Comparisons between different faiths and beliefs are actively encouraged and, as such, the children are able to develop the depth of their knowledge and understanding in engaging ways, involving open enquiry, lively debate and, wherever possible, first-hand experiences.

Impact

The teaching of Religious Education at New Mills Primary School has a positive impact across the school and wider community. It unites the children because they are able to make links between their own and their friends' lives and those of others in our community and the wider world. They adopt and develop behaviours, attitudes and the skills needed to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues.

The success of our Religious Education curriculum is measured through a variety of assessment methods. Teachers use a bank of meaningful assessment tools to support planning and assess lesson outcomes e.g. prior/post knowledge, quizzes and pupil voice. Other forms of assessment include the scrutiny of children's books and discussions with pupils. End of year outcomes and progress are tracked on Curriculum Maestro and are monitored by the RE subject co-ordinator.