

Curriculum Intent – Religious Education

At Northwood Park Primary, we pride ourselves on respecting each other. This basic principle to “treat others as you wish to be treated” is taught in the many religions we cover throughout the curriculum and forms our school motto. We respect people’s right to worship freely and acknowledge diversity within each family’s beliefs within our school. We teach our children to challenge prejudice and stereotyping as well as explore the benefits of living in the culturally diverse city of Wolverhampton.

As R.E. is not part of the national curriculum, it is the responsibility of the LA to ensure there is a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) in place locally. This is the scheme followed at Northwood Park Primary. It is important for us to teach R.E. through cross-curricular themes with children learning dances and songs (as a part of class assemblies performed to parents and carers) as well as producing art-work linked to religious themes to make R.E. as engaging as possible. These experiences also help to engage pupils with R.E. and **develop curiosity.**

In the EYFS, we take a playful approach to R.E., with children learning through play in order to introduce various religious festivals and celebrations throughout the year. In Key Stage One, children are introduced to Sikhism, Islam, Judaism and Christianity and start to explore big questions about faith and the impact it has on people’s lives.

The Key Stage Two curriculum **builds-on children’s prior learning.** We aim to **create independent thinkers who are aspirational, confident and prepared to challenge views in opposition to their personal values and beliefs.** This is particularly important as we belong to a multi-cultural community where children need the skills of tolerance and appreciation for people’s differences which can be taught through R.E. By learning about the faiths, beliefs and values of others critically, we can learn important life lessons from religious stories and practices.

Each year group also produce a religious themed assembly to celebrate major festivals throughout the year e.g. Diwali and Eid al Fitr. This **gives children the opportunity to discover hidden talents, skills and new passions.** Each half term, Reverend Poole from St. Mary’s church visits the children to deliver an assembly in school (alternating between KS1 and KS2).

Parents and carers are encouraged to join us during our class assemblies and visits to our local church on special religious occasions. We aim to encourage good moral values within our children and teach them to be tolerant and loving towards each other. **We are stronger because of the diversity of our community and we celebrate the different strengths and perspectives we all offer.** We aim to equip our children with the skills and understanding to live in a diverse community harmoniously and with compassion for others. The impact of R.E. at Northwood Park Primary School can be measured in our children’s attitudes shown to others and the acceptance, tolerance and celebration of our differences and similarities.