



Brookfield Community Primary School

'Many hearts make a school'

Religious Education: Intent, Implementation and Impact



Intent

At Brookfield Community Primary School, Religious Education is taught in a stimulating, interesting and enjoyable way, which encourages the children to learn, enquire and evaluate the fundamental questions of life.

The national curriculum states the legal requirement that:

Every state-funded school must offer a curriculum which is balanced and broadly based, and which:

- *Promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils, and*
- *Prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.*

...all state schools...must teach religious education to pupils at every Key Stage.

Our Religious Education curriculum is designed to help children gain knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other major religions represented in the UK. We aim to foster an appreciation for how religious beliefs influence daily life and behaviour, while also developing their ability to make thoughtful and informed decisions about religious and moral issues. By supporting children's spiritual, moral, social, and cultural growth, we are equipping them with the attitudes needed to thrive within their community and become responsible, respectful citizens in our diverse, multicultural society.

Religious Education is taught throughout the school in such a way as to ensure effective progression across all year groups. This begins in the Foundation Stage, where our youngest children begin to learn about religious studies through 'Understanding the World- People, Culture and Communities'. Within this strand of the EYFS curriculum, children will begin to know some similarities and differences between different religious and cultural communities in this country, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class.

We believe it is essential for all our pupils to learn about and learn from religion to better understand the world around them. Through religious education, students expand their knowledge of world faiths and deepen their understanding of the beliefs, values, and traditions of individuals, societies, communities, and cultures. We encourage our pupils to ask questions about

the world and to reflect on their own beliefs, values, and experiences. To enrich our religious education curriculum, we also organise trips to various places of worship and welcome visitors with open arms to celebrate varying cultural events around the world with us.

Within our local area, we have a diverse society. Brookfield Community Primary School embraces this within its approach to Religious Education. Our approach to fostering an understanding of different backgrounds, cultures, and faiths aligns with the values of a community-focused primary school. Celebrating these differences, while also recognising shared values and interests, creates a strong foundation for building empathy, respect, and inclusiveness among students.

By exploring similarities and differences, students not only gain a richer understanding of the world but also develop key skills in communication and critical thinking. Introducing children to a variety of beliefs and practices encourages openness and understanding, helping to break down stereotypes and build a sense of unity despite differences. This understanding can be profoundly impactful, helping young learners grow into compassionate and informed members of society.

At Brookfield, we strive for our children to see their school as a place where everyone is valued and understood, creating a positive learning environment that truly lives up to the word "community."

We understand that Religious Education plays an important role, along with all other curriculum areas, in promoting the spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development of our children. It should develop an aptitude for dialogue in pupils so that they can participate positively in our society which is diverse in relation to religions and world views. Specific vocabulary for each unit is taught and built upon and effective questioning to communicate ideas is encouraged.

Our School Mission Statement of 'Many hearts make a school' and our Learning Powers, are at the heart of our curriculum and all that we do at Brookfield Community Primary School.

Implementation

At Brookfield Community Primary School, our Religious Education curriculum is designed to be inclusive, meeting the needs of all pupils, including those with special educational needs and higher ability learners.

Using the Lancashire Agreed Syllabus throughout school (EYFS-Y6), RE is taught for one hour each week, offering a progressive curriculum tailored to the needs of our children. It ensures continuity and development of knowledge and understanding of religions, with a primary focus on Christianity and in-depth studies of Islam and Hinduism. By the end of Key Stage 2, students will have had exposure to all six major world faiths.

Our planning approach is detailed and inquiry-based, encouraging a child-centered learning environment. We value each religion studied for the unique perspectives and contributions it brings to our children's education, promoting a teaching style that prioritises open inquiry and, where possible, firsthand experiences.

Each unit begins with children sharing their prior knowledge, which informs our planning and instruction. Lessons are designed to be engaging and structured with clear, knowledge- and skills-based learning objectives, supported by subject-specific vocabulary provided on termly knowledge organisers. To assess progress, end-of-unit tasks measure children's knowledge and understanding against these objectives.

Our curriculum is delivered through effective 'quality first teaching,' as outlined in our Teaching and Learning Policy. Enrichment opportunities, including inspirational guest speakers and educational trips, provide children with meaningful experiences that deepen their learning and broaden their understanding of religious education.

Within EYFS and Y1, floor books are used to evidence the children's learning of celebrations. In Year 2, the children use floor books at the beginning of the year, transitioning into their own RE journals as the summer term begins. This supports the children in having their own RE journal that they can celebrate their learning in as they move up to Year 3, where RE journals are individual to each child. This arrangement follows the children up to the end of the children's school journey with us in Year 6.

Impact

Our well-planned Religious Education curriculum equips children with essential knowledge and skills, fostering progressive, developmental, and engaging learning experiences. Through teaching that cultivates growth and resilience, we empower each child to reach their full potential. Teaching ensures that children develop learning powers enabling each one to be the best they can be.

At Brookfield Community Primary School, children learn to express their personal beliefs, ideas, values, and experiences in clear and respectful ways, recognising and honouring the right of others to hold different views and live in diverse ways. Our RE curriculum prepares children not only to participate in local society but also to appreciate and engage with regional, national, and global communities.

Religious Education at Brookfield enhances pupils' understanding of the rich diversity within Preston, Lancashire, the UK, and the world. Our RE programme challenges children to reflect critically and thoughtfully on various religions and perspectives. Through visits to different places of worship, handling cultural artifacts, and experiencing cultural elements such as food, music, dance, and festivals, children build not only tolerance but a deep respect for our community and the broader world they inhabit.