

RE at George Street Primary School

Intent

Religious education at George Street is explored using ultimate questions about the meaning of life, moral values, diverse religious beliefs and cultures. Teaching religious education at George Street promotes open mindedness within our pupils, encouraging our pupils to be respectful and understanding of other people's religious beliefs, cultures and life choices.

We believe that teaching religious education enables children to learn about a range of religions within their own community and from around the world. The curriculum should help children explore their own and other's views and will be given the opportunity to challenge questions regarding belonging, meaning and purpose, whilst also developing their own views, beliefs and values. Children should be allowed to make connections and reflect upon the similarities or different features between the world wide religions such as worship, rituals and celebrations. Children should be able to discuss other's faiths and beliefs using respectful and thoughtful discussions.

Religious education at George Street ensures that children develop knowledge and understanding of sources of wisdom and their impact, whilst encouraging the children to explore personal and critical responses. Our pupils develop their moral compass whilst being assisted in developing human understanding, a personal identity and searching for meaning in the context of evaluating different viewpoints.

Implementation

At George Street we have adopted the Hertfordshire Agreed Syllabus of Religious Education. Our pupils explore religious education starting within our EYFS through to year 6, following eight key areas of religion or study through question based exploration.

- Beliefs and practices
- Sources of wisdom
- Symbols and actions
- Prayer, worship
- Identity and belonging
- Ultimate questions
- Human responsibility and values
- Justice and fairness

Our pupils understanding is built upon year by year throughout their time at George Street school. In the EYFS they begin to explore different ways of living, including beliefs and festivals, starting with exploring celebrations such as birthdays and then exploring religious festivals such as Diwali and Christmas.

In Key Stage 1 the children begin to notice and respond sensitively to some similarities between different religions. The children begin to articulate key beliefs, practices and experiences of religions. Progressing into Lower Key Stage 2 the children reflect upon and make connections between their own knowledge and understanding of religions and worldviews. The children explore human responsibility through enquiry based learning and they discuss important issues and moral choices. Children in Upper Key Stage 2 connect and reflect upon their knowledge and understanding of religions and worldviews. The children are encouraged to develop their own curiosity whilst expressing their own personal reflections, they are encouraged to identify the important of moral choices, and to be able to explain their reasoning to support their ideas.

At George Street Primary School we value using real artefacts and enhancing our religious education by inviting visitors to school to share their personal meaning of their religious beliefs, traditions and values.

Impact

Through their religious education learning at George Street children develop respectful and open-minded characteristics. Our pupils will be set on a pathway to grow into adults who are able to discuss other worldviews and are open minded to other faiths and beliefs, accepting that other people may have beliefs that are different to their own. Our pupils will be religiously and theologically literate so that they can engage in life in an ever increasingly diverse society with respect and compassion.