

## Religious Education at Twyford St Mary's C of E Primary School

At Twyford St Mary's, we believe that high-quality Religious Education (RE) helps children make sense of the world around them, understand themselves and others, and develop the knowledge, skills and values they need to flourish in the modern world.

RE is much more than learning about religions. It encourages children to explore life's big questions, think deeply, develop respect for others, and reflect on their own beliefs and values. Through RE, pupils learn to engage thoughtfully with different viewpoints and become compassionate, informed and responsible members of society.

### Why is Religious Education Important?

RE plays a unique role in every child's education because it helps them:

- Explore questions of meaning, purpose and identity.
- Develop curiosity, critical thinking and respectful discussion skills.
- Understand Christianity and the beliefs, practices and traditions that have shaped our local and national heritage.
- Learn about a range of religions and worldviews represented in our diverse society.
- Build empathy, respect and understanding for people whose beliefs may differ from their own.
- Reflect on their own values and consider how they can make a positive difference in the world.

At Twyford St Mary's, RE supports children in living out our values of **courage, care, joy and respect**, helping them become thoughtful citizens and courageous advocates for themselves and others.

### Our Commitment to Excellence

RE is taught as an engaging and varied academic subject. Children are encouraged to think deeply, ask questions, investigate ideas and justify their opinions using evidence and reasoning.

Our curriculum is carefully designed to ensure that knowledge, understanding and skills build progressively from Reception through to Year 6. This enables pupils to develop increasingly sophisticated understanding of religion, belief and worldview.

## **What Will My Child Learn?**

As a Church of England school, Christianity is the principal religion studied throughout the school. Children develop a rich understanding of Christian beliefs, teachings, worship and ways of life.

Alongside Christianity, pupils also learn about other faiths and worldviews, helping them appreciate the diversity of the world they live in.

## **Our RE Journey**

### **Early Years & Key Stage 1**

- Christianity
- Judaism

### **Lower Key Stage 2**

- Christianity
- Islam

### **Upper Key Stage 2**

- Christianity
- Buddhism
- Humanism

This broad and balanced curriculum enables children to understand both the uniqueness of different traditions and the shared values that connect people across communities.

## **How Do We Teach RE?**

Our teaching follows the highly respected Living Difference IV approach used across Hampshire schools.

Children learn through a cycle of:

Experience → Investigation → Contextualisation → Evaluation → Expression

This enquiry-based approach encourages pupils to:

- Explore real-life experiences and questions.
- Investigate religious and non-religious worldviews.
- Understand beliefs within their wider context.
- Evaluate ideas thoughtfully and respectfully.
- Express their own informed responses.

Lessons are engaging, inclusive and designed to challenge every learner.

Children may learn through:

- Discussion and debate
- Storytelling
- Philosophical enquiry
- Artefacts and religious texts
- Creative activities
- Visits to places of worship
- Visitors from faith communities

These experiences bring learning to life and help children connect knowledge with lived experience.

### **Developing the Whole Child**

RE makes a significant contribution to children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Through RE, pupils learn to:

- Show respect for others.
- Listen carefully to different perspectives.
- Develop confidence in sharing their own ideas.
- Reflect on their beliefs and values.
- Appreciate diversity within local, national and global communities.
- Recognise how faith and belief influence people's lives.

By encountering a wide range of traditions, celebrations, customs, art, music and literature, children gain a deeper understanding of both human difference and shared humanity.

## **Building Knowledge Over Time**

Our curriculum is carefully sequenced so that important concepts are revisited and deepened as children progress through school.

Key themes such as:

- Belonging
- Community
- Special
- Love

are explored repeatedly through different religions, worldviews and contexts. This allows pupils to make meaningful connections in their learning and develop increasingly secure understanding over time.

## **Measuring Success**

We regularly assess children's understanding to ensure that every pupil makes strong progress.

Successful RE at Twyford St Mary's means that children can:

- Talk confidently about religious and non-religious worldviews.
- Explain what beliefs mean to different people.
- Make connections between ideas and traditions.
- Reflect thoughtfully on important questions.
- Demonstrate respect and understanding towards others.
- Apply their learning to life beyond the classroom.

## **A Curriculum That Prepares Children for Life**

Religious Education helps children understand the diverse world in which they are growing up. It nurtures curiosity, wisdom, compassion and respect while providing opportunities to explore some of humanity's most profound questions.

At Twyford St Mary's, we are proud of the role RE plays in helping every child flourish academically, spiritually and personally, enabling them to become confident, reflective and respectful young people who are ready to contribute positively to their communities and the wider world.

