

Why is RE important?

Religious Education has never been more relevant, engaging or challenging as religion & religious issues are in the news every day. The recent events in France are just a reminder of the dangers of religious extremism and how religious education can play a vital role in addressing these matters. For pupils to be able to understand our constantly changing world they need to be able to interpret religious issues & evaluate their significance. From the pupils first day at school RE gives students valuable insights into the diverse beliefs & opinions held by people today. It helps with their own personal development & supports an understanding of the spiritual, moral, social & cultural questions that surface again & again in their lives. In tackling difficult questions it provides pupils with insight that can work to challenge stereotypes, promote cohesion, and tackle extremism. RE does important work encouraging young people to value themselves & the communities within which they live.

Religious Education

- Is relevant for all children, whatever their religion or beliefs
- Teaches understanding of world religions and beliefs
- Shows how religion influences individuals, families, communities and cultures
- Explores the political and social impact of religion
- Encourages reflection on issues of justice and truth
- Provokes questions about the meaning of life
- Offers opportunities for personal reflection
- Develops and affirms personal identity and responsible citizenship
- Prepares children for adult life

RE can help:

- Promote respect for self and others
- Contribute to an understanding of history and culture
- Enhance our understanding of global affairs
- Develop personal well-being and happiness
- Safeguard ethical standards in public life
- Generate social and community cohesion
- Tackle extremism and religious discrimination

RE in British Schools is

- Admired across the world
- About modern belief
- A chance to learn about religion without feeling pressurised
- Intellectually rigorous
- Up to date, relevant and enjoyable

In RE pupils learn about:

- What people believe
- How people show their beliefs in their daily lives
- How people explain what they believe & understand using symbols & stories

This helps children & young people to:

- Make sense of who they are
- To have opportunity to have their views challenged
- Make sense of life

- Make sense of right & wrong
- to develop tolerance and respect for other people's beliefs
- To develop their critical view
- To be better informed citizens

It is the law that all schools must teach RE.

When do we study RE?

From Primary to Secondary

How is RE taught?

- Pictures & photographs
- From texts books, religious scriptures
- Artefacts
- Visits to places of worship
- Visitors
- Displays

Children learn through

- Discussion
- Asking & answering questions
- Sharing their knowledge & experiences
- Written work
- Presentations
- ICT

Visits & visitors

Nearly every year in primary school one of the units of work should include visits to a place of worship, for example a church or a mosque. When pupils go on a visit they are will expected to dress & behave respectfully & to follow the customs such as removing your shoes or covering your head. No young people will **ever** be asked to join in worship.

Going on a visit to a place of worship brings everything you have learnt at school to life pupils will see some very beautiful buildings & meet some very interesting & friendly people.

Sometimes teachers will invite a visitor into school to talk about what they believe or demonstrate what they do. This again helps pupils to learn in an interesting way.

It is important for our children & young people to learn to be respectful of both their own and other people's beliefs & cultures. This helps make schools & communities a fairer place for everybody, whatever their religion, culture, language or background.

In RE lessons your teachers won't try to change your religious beliefs or persuade you to be religious. RE is a lesson where you do a lot of thinking!