



Religious Education (RE) Springfield Infant School and Nursery

Intent

At Springfield, we have designed and follow a creative curriculum. We feel that this provides the opportunity to celebrate individuality and creativity in all of our children. We provide our children with a broad RE curriculum, which both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. It develops core values which will in turn influence behaviour and help us to understand how we should live our lives, both at school and in the wider community. Our Springfield 'I CAN' values are embedded in our RE curriculum. At Springfield RE has a pivotal role of enabling and promoting **inclusivity**, children having their RE inquisitiveness and understanding **nurtured**, being **creative** and having the chance to challenge themselves and be **ambitious** in their RE work. The skills children acquire in RE are a means of supporting their learning in a range of ways, and can be transferred to other areas of the curriculum.

At Springfield we want to:

- engage pupils in enquiring into and exploring questions arising from the study of religion and belief, as to promote their spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development.
- provide learners with knowledge and understanding of principal religious traditions and beliefs represented in the UK and their local community.
- develop their understanding of the ways in which beliefs influence people in their behaviour, practices and outlook.
- encourage learners to develop a positive attitude towards other people who hold religious beliefs different from their own.

Implementation

Religious education is a statutory subject of the curriculum for all pupils and 'should be provided for all registered pupils except those withdrawn at the request of their parents.' (s 71 SSFA 1998)

We ensure that we comply with the legal requirements by following the West Sussex Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2020-25. The agreed syllabus follows the legal requirement for RE to reflect the fact that the religious traditions in UK are mainly Christian, while considering of the teachings and practises of other principle religions represented in the UK. Culture is an important aspect of the world we live in and this is reflected in the curriculum we teach.

The curriculum is planned and structured so that, with each year group's focus building on skills and concepts previously introduced and explored. Our progression of skills documents, map these out with rigour, so that we can ensure our children are always making progress with their RE knowledge, understanding and skills. This document also supports curriculum coverage so that we can ensure that our children are learning about a range of religions,

beliefs and cultures some within their local school community and some beyond this in the wider world.

At Springfield, we understand the importance of using the correct terminology and language to support our children's learning. Therefore, key vocabulary, which the children need to use and understand will be featured on knowledge organisers as well as on display in the classroom for learners to access at all times. Our planning documents, also identify the vocabulary that needs to be taught to and used by our children in order for them to succeed with their learning.

Through the knowledge they acquire, our children gain an acceptance and respect for people, which is crucial in their role as Global Citizens within the community. Throughout their time at Springfield, they are encouraged to think about different beliefs and draw upon similarities and differences between them.

Religious Education is taught on a weekly basis, as well as through RE assemblies. Our lessons are interactive and discussion based and centre around Big Questions which encourage the children to discuss their opinions and extend their understanding of difficult concepts and challenging ideas. The children will learn key stories from specific religions and will have the opportunity to look at artefacts from a range of religious ceremonies.

Over the school year, there are a number special events and practical, exciting activities are used to inspire children and foster an enthusiasm for learning about the religions and faiths around them. Learning takes place both indoors and out. Carefully planned off-site-visits to local churches and the mosques ignite children's passion for the subject and they begin to see themselves as life-long RE learners. The children's learning is further enriched and developed through a Springfield workshops. These happen throughout the year and we draw upon the support from our local Springfield community but as a way to teach our children about the faiths and beliefs in their local community through age-appropriate stories, drama and artefacts. These include; 'Open the Book, the local Imam, visitors from the Jewish faith. Not only does this broaden our children's understanding of the wider world but it helps them to make connections and find their place in their local community.

Pupils' progress in RE is based on the expected outcomes outlines in the Agreed Syllabus, which in turn have been developed in line with guidance produced nationally. At Springfield, we value our pupils' individual opinions and ideas and do not subject their ideas or opinions to formal assessment, we record and promote questioning which are central to good RE.

Impact

Throughout their time at Springfield, throughout their RE teaching and learning, our pupils develop:

-their knowledge and understanding of and their ability to respond to, Christianity, other principal religions, and world views.

-an understanding and respect of different religions, beliefs, values, and traditions through exploring issues within and between and outside of faiths.

-an understanding the influence of faith and belief on individuals, societies, communities, and cultures.

-skills of enquiry and response using religious vocabulary, questioning and empathy.

-skills of reflection, expression, application, analysis and evaluation of beliefs, values and practices, and the communication of personal responses to these.

At Springfield, we encourage our children to learn from different religions, beliefs, values, and traditions while exploring their own. We hope that they leave us with respect for and sensitivity to others, those whose faiths and beliefs are different from their own. We encourage our children to be ambitious, questioning and inquisitive. Furthermore, our pupils have the opportunity to consider challenging questions from the meaning and purpose of life, beliefs about God, the self, reality and right and wrong.

RE is invaluable in our ever changing, increasingly diversifying community of Springfield.