

RE

“My religion is very simple. My religion is kindness”

Dalai Lama

Intent

At Balcombe CE Primary School the aim of Religious Education is to help children acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other principal religions. We aim to understand the way that religious beliefs shape our behaviour and develop the ability to make informed judgments about religious and moral issues. Our intent is for our children to understand differences and live among diverse communities as considerate, respectful and responsible individuals. We intend that our children should learn from religions to develop the ability to:

- Understand and use religious language
- Understand the influence of religion on community life and culture
- Understand that for some questions there are no right or wrong answers
- Make informed responses to religious and moral issues
- Identify the relationships between religious beliefs, human responsibility, global issues and the natural world.

Implementation

Religious Education is taught through regular lessons in each class. As a school we use the resource ‘Understanding Christianity’, which supports the teaching of Christianity. It aims to develop the pupils’ own thinking and understanding of Christianity, as a contribution to their understanding of the world and their experience within it. As Christianity is the predominant religion in the school's pupil population and in the community surrounding the school, it is the main faith studied each year with a minimum of two thirds of the RE curriculum devoted to it.

Children will also be taught about Judaism, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism across their school career. We aim to teach so the children develop knowledge and understanding of the people who are important to these religions, their history, where people worship and also how their beliefs affect the way they live. All religions and their communities are treated with **respect** and sensitivity and we value the links, which are, and can be made between home, school, and a faith community. We acknowledge that each religion studied can contribute to the education of all our pupils.

Impact

On leaving Balcombe Primary School our pupils:

- are reflective
- have begun to explore their beliefs about a range of ideas and are aware that not everyone thinks alike
- are **curious** about other religions and why people choose to follow a religion
- can make links between their own lives and those of others in their community and in the wider world
- develop an understanding and **respect** of other people’s cultures and ways of life and worship, which they are then able to communicate to the wider community.