

Religious Education

Statement of Intent

It is our intent for the Religious Education at Cockfield Primary School to equip children with the knowledge and skills to answer challenging questions, explore different religious beliefs, values and traditions and develop a more in-depth understanding of various religious traditions, beliefs and practices that are followed in our multi-cultural society. Learning R.E enables pupils to combat prejudice, preparing them for adult life, employment and life-long learning.

Statement of Implementation

Religious Education taught at Cockfield Primary School (according to the new Draft Durham Agreed Syllabus Religious Education 2019) ensures pupils encounter core concepts in religions and beliefs in a coherent and progressive way, developing their understanding and their ability to handle questions of religions, attitudes and belief.

RE at Cockfield Primary School is based on three elements: knowledge and understanding of religion, critical thinking and personal reflection. These are interlinked and when they are applied they ensure good progression is made in RE. (See outlines of these three elements in our RE Policy).

Children are given the opportunity to become actively engaged in the learning process through enquiry based learning. The four concepts can be explored through appropriate questioning (See outlines of these four concepts in our RE Policy). Through the exploration of the concepts, the children are developing their skills in each of the three elements.

RE is taught by studying one religion at a time (systemic units) and then including thematic units, which build on learning by comparing the religions, beliefs and practices studied. Teachers link with important dates and religious festivals, providing opportunities to celebrate festivals and religions with greater relevance and consistency and enhances a cross-curricular approach.

Children gain the opportunity to visit different places of worship to further deepen learning, Religious visitors are organised to talk to the children about their faith, festivals and beliefs. These visits provide the children with opportunities to ask questions and have hands on experiences such as: making Christingles. These experiences are organised termly, focusing on the topics that the children are studying.

Statement of Impact

At Cockfield Primary School, we seek to ensure that all children in our school are educated to develop spiritually, academically, emotionally and morally to enable them to better understand themselves, to have an acceptance of others and to cope with the opportunities, challenges and responsibilities of living in a rapidly changing, multicultural world. Regular assemblies and celebrations of learning help to celebrate the diversity of the school community and promote positive images of people in the wider community.

Religious Education in the Early Years:

RE sits very firmly within the areas of personal, social and emotional development and understanding of the world. From an early age, the children at Cockfield Primary School learn to develop a positive sense of themselves, and others, and learn how to form positive and respectful relationships. They will do this through encountering religious and non-religious worldwide views through special people, books, places and objects and by visiting places of worship. The children will have the opportunity to listen to and talk about stories. They are introduced to subject-specific words and use all of their senses to explore beliefs, practices and forms of expression. In the Early Years, the children ask questions and reflect on their own feelings and experiences. They use their imaginations and curiosity to develop their appreciation of, and wonder at, the world in which they live.