

## Religious Education at Exwick Heights Primary

At Exwick Heights Primary School, pupils are encouraged to share their religious beliefs and customs as well as non-religious worldviews to celebrate the school's cultural diversity. In the Early Years, we explore what makes us unique by discussing our similarities and differences, during both



child and adult led activities. From Year 1, Religious Education (RE) is taught discretely in class as well as through reflection time during assemblies. The syllabus gives children the opportunity to learn about some of the different religions and non-religious worldviews in the UK: Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Judaism as well as learning about Humanism with further flexible units which encourage children to look at other faiths. We use the Local Authority's Agreed Syllabus for Religious

Education as the basis for the delivery of RE lessons. Children's learning is enhanced by welcoming visitors to talk about their faith and visits to religious places of worship.

### INTENT

The principal aim of religious education at Exwick Heights is to explore what people believe and what difference this makes to how they live, so that pupils can gain the knowledge, understanding and skills required to handle questions raised by religion and belief, reflecting on their own ideas and ways of living. Religious Education is taught throughout the school in such a way as to reflect the overall aims, values, and philosophy of the school. At Exwick Heights Primary, Religious Education plays an important role, along with all other curriculum areas, particularly PSHCE and SEAL, in promoting the spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development of our children.

It is our intent that RE provides opportunities for pupils to develop positive attitudes and values and to reflect and relate their learning in RE to their own experiences. At Exwick Heights, we firmly believe that Religious Education encourage pupils to play a full part in their own learning as learners, individuals and citizens, promoting debate and dialogue and reflecting on questions of truth and morality and celebrating diversity.

### IMPLEMENTATION

At Exwick Heights, using the Devon and Torbay Agreed Syllabus to sequence the learning, the pupils explore religious and non-religious beliefs through the exploration of key questions and core concepts. The units of study cover three core elements which are woven together: Making Sense of Beliefs, Understanding the Impact and Making Connections. The curriculum is mapped in a spiral manner so that pupils will revisit and build upon learning from previous years. We use difference assessment opportunities within lessons to review understanding and build upon this in future lessons to provide a challenging and ambitious curriculum.

There are no presumptions made as to the religious backgrounds and beliefs and values of the children and the staff. We value the religious background of all members of the school community and hope that this will encourage individuals to share their own experiences with others freely. 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. We promote teaching in Religious Education that stresses open enquiry and first-hand experiences wherever possible for both staff and children.

We welcome visitors from all cultural and religious backgrounds to share their stories with the children in assemblies and workshops. As part of our commitment to British Values, we foster a respect for people of all religious faiths and for those who do not identify with a specific religion.



### **IMPACT**

The children at Exwick Heights Primary enjoy learning about other religions and why people choose, or choose not, to follow a religion. They gain many skills through the study of the unit questions such as being able to make connections, using evidence, considering and weighing up ideas, identifying differences and similarities and recalling key stories from religious sources. Through R.E. our children gain a coherent understanding of different religious and non-religious worldviews, preparing them for life in twenty-first century Britain. R.E. offers our children the means by which to understand how other people choose to live and to understand why they choose to live in that way. As such, R.E. is invaluable in an ever changing and shrinking world.