

Why RE is important

Religion is an ever changing context that features so heavily in our diverse and modern society. Additionally, every child has the right to think and believe what they want and to practise their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights.

We believe it is important that our children grow up to be understanding and tolerant citizens who respect the traditions, festivals and values of others, not just within their own region, but across the globe. We want our children to be able to forge interconnecting pathways of thought with a range of people, and for them to be able to see beyond barriers that can often divide people within our multi-cultural society.

What RE looks like at Ribbon

At Ribbon, we believe in the importance about learning about and learning from different religions and cultures.

Our curriculum encourages children to ask and reflect on challenging and thought provoking questions. It provides opportunities for personal reflection where all children can express, explore and celebrate their own beliefs and opinions in a safe and supportive environment. RE also teaches us to value the beliefs of others even if we may sometimes think differently to them. It is important that all our children, including those with SEND, are set suitable learning challenges and are able to overcome potential barriers to learning so that they can contribute to and learn in RE lessons. In some lessons pupils with SEND (including our More Able pupils) will be able to take part in the same way as their peers; but in others, some modifications or adjustments will need to be made to include and fully challenge everyone.

Examples of learning at Ribbon

At Ribbon, the children are introduced to the skill of reflection and this is the skill that underpins religious education at our school.

In EYFS, our children celebrate different religious festivals such as Diwali, Christmas and Easter, experimenting with a range of enriching and inviting resources and activities and performing songs and plays to their parents and carers.

In both Key Stage 1 and 2, our children are given the opportunity to think about and answer big questions related to RE. Our RE curriculum is enriched by visits to religious places of worship such as local churches, cathedrals, synagogues, mandirs and mosques. This supports our children in gaining a deeper understanding and respect of what different people believe and value; and gives them an opportunity to celebrate and compare these to their own beliefs.

Our children take part in collective worship on a daily basis in class and twice weekly in assemblies. During this time: we listen to and share stories, sing song, say prayers and answer questions. We also celebrate the Christian festivals of Harvest, Christmas and Easter annually through engaging activities in class and through songs, readings, prayers, art work and performances with the whole school.

What our children say.....

"I liked it when we sang our Harvest songs in assembly to the whole school." – **Age 4**

"I like to learn about the stories in R.E." - **Age 6**

"I like to visit different places and learn what people believe." – **Age 7**

"I like learning about other cultures and religions and finding out what other people's religions mean." – **Age 10**

Religious Education

