

## **Intent**

Through our Religious Education curriculum at Ashfield Junior School, we want the children:

- to be aware of the significant role that Religious Education plays in their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development;
- to have an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the traditions and beliefs of two contrasting religions, one Abrahamic and one Dharmic faith, represented in Great Britain;
- to have an understanding of how RE promotes respect, open-mindedness and tolerance towards others with different faiths and beliefs from their own;
- to become aware of their own beliefs and values and to have a positive attitude towards others who hold religious beliefs different to their own;
- to be encouraged to develop their sense of identity and belonging through self-awareness and reflection;
- to develop their appreciation for the expression of beliefs, cultural practices and influence of principle religions and worldviews in the local, national and wider global community.

## **Implementation**

Our unique curriculum has been designed in discussion with Imran Kotwal, from Muslim Learner Services and a Discovery RE mentor, and is specific to Ashfield Junior School. It concentrates teaching on two religions, Islam and Buddhism, as recommended in the 'Teaching a broad and balanced curriculum for education recovery', published in November 2021. This enables teachers to strengthen and reinforce what the children already know and build on prior knowledge and experiences as they move throughout the school. The Christian faith and its values are explored in assemblies and during visits to churches in our community. Knowledge of aspects of other religions and world views are also to be explored in assemblies. Coverage is planned to link with key dates and religious festivals to provide opportunities to celebrate festivals and religions with greater consistency and contextual relevance. The lessons/assemblies teach children about:

- Identity and belonging - how we know when someone belongs to a religion;
- Beliefs and teachings - what religions teach about life and how important events are remembered in ceremonies;
- Practices and ways of life –how different practices and ways of life have been developed by followers of religions and how beliefs have had different effects on individuals, communities and societies.

Our curriculum provides our children with the following experiences and enrichment opportunities:

- handling artefacts;
- exploring sacred texts;
- meeting visitors from local and wider religious communities;
- making visits to religious places of worship where possible, and where not, making use of videos and the internet;
- taking part in whole school events (multi-faith days, Harvest Festival);
- participating in moments of quiet reflection;
- using ICT to further explore religion and belief globally;
- comparing religions and worldviews through discussion;
- debating and communicating religious belief and worldviews and answering and asking ultimate questions posed by these.

## **Impact**

The impact of our RE curriculum is sought directly from the children as surveys and questionnaires are used to gather their voices and experiences of RE. Independent and/or group work is displayed in class RE big books and is evidenced with a variety of outcomes, including written pieces and art work. Photographs and videos of children's discussions and responses are recorded on Earwig. This is all monitored on a termly basis by the subject leader.