

The Great Oak CE Learning Federation 'RE Statement of Intent.'

Intent

At Great Oak CE Learning Federation, the aim of our Religious Education curriculum is to help children to acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and the other principal religions represented in Great Britain; to appreciate the way that religious beliefs shape life and our behaviour, develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues and enhance their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Religious Education is taught throughout the school in such a way as to reflect the distinctly Christian vision, mission statement, motto and values.

Throughout our school, Religious Education plays an important role, along with all other curriculum areas, in promoting the spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development of all our children – allowing them to achieve their God-given potential and flourish. We seek to instil a sense of wonder at God's creation which nurtures a desire to learn and care for people and the environment. We aim to help pupils and adults to develop lifelong values so that they can contribute successfully to their local community and navigate an increasing complex national and global community.

Implementation

At the Great Oak CE Learning Federation, we follow and meet the requirements set in the Agreed Staffordshire Syllabus. These objectives are carefully merged to those of the Understanding Christianity scheme-of-work, which provides detailed planning and carefully chosen resources to help develop the children's understanding of the "big picture" of the Bible and promote religious literacy.

Although Christianity is the key focus during lessons and through daily acts of collective worship, we introduce our children to Islam in KS1 – as well as Hinduism in KS2. We have three themed weeks a year that focus on different religious beliefs. 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.

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. We are extremely lucky that members of the local church regularly visit our school to carry out assemblies. All religions and their communities are treated with respect and sensitivity and we value the links which can be made between home, school, and a faith community.

Impact

Through Religious Education, the children are able to make links between their own lives and those of others in their community and in the wider world. Our children develop a strong sense of religious literacy and are able to identify key themes that run through Christianity and other religions – such as belonging, truth and values.

Through the teaching of Religious Education, our children become part of a Christian community where there are strong, caring relationships based on kindness and mutual respect, demonstrated through courtesy, forgiveness and reconciliation.

Religious Education 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. Consequently, Religious Education is invaluable in an ever changing and shrinking world.