

Intent

At the Vale School we strive to support our children to develop an **awareness** of their own and others' identities, an engagement with the **mysteries** of life and the possible answers given by a wide variety of religions and beliefs and an appropriate understanding of what is of real **value** in the world today. (Agreed Syllabus for RE for Haringey)

At the Vale we strongly believe that it is important to support our children in understanding the world around them. By studying RE we aim to help our children acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of the major world religions, understand the way that religious beliefs shape life and behaviour, develop the ability to make informed judgements about religious and moral issues and enhance their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

RE plays an important role along with other curriculum areas such as PHSE, in promoting social awareness and understanding in our children. We support our children to ask questions about the world and to reflect on their own beliefs, values and experience. We promote equality and an understanding of British Values, striving to prepare children for their adult life in modern Britain. RE has a significant role in developing an understanding of their rights and responsibilities as members of our school and the wider community. The RE curriculum is about 'belonging' and aims to nurture children's awareness of diversity as well as sensitivity to the beliefs and non-beliefs of other people.

Implementation

At the Vale School, it has been agreed that, having considered the requirements and guidelines presented in the Agreed Syllabus, the following religions have been selected for study: Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism.

RE is organised in half termly blocks and topics are aligned with specific religious celebrations as far as possible. Assemblies, high quality resources and differentiated activities develop children's understanding of specific religious beliefs and support them to make connections with their own experiences and beliefs. RE is taught through a multi-sensory approach and cross curricular where appropriate. RE has a weighting of 1 lesson per week. The key knowledge (I know) and skills (I can) and key vocabulary for each study area are identified in the scheme of work (SOW). Teachers are supported to organise and timetable the teaching of RE in a way which works appropriately for their children. The RE curriculum at the Vale makes full use of resources within the immediate and wider local area. This may include visiting places of worship in the community or visitors coming into school to share their beliefs and experiences with us.

Planning is informed by and aligned with the 'Understanding the World' element of Development Matters and the Early Years Foundation Stage and the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education SACRE.

Assemblies

Weekly assemblies at the Vale School focus on themes such as British Values, for example diversity and equality. They celebrate different religious festivals and nationwide events such as Anti-Bullying Week, Black History Month and the participation in events to raise money for charities.

The Right of Withdrawal from RE

Parents/carers of children have the right to request that their child be excused from all or part of the RE curriculum. The Vale School will discuss this with the family and explain that RE is taught in an objective way that is relevant and appropriate to children and respects personal beliefs. The family may also be invited to view the syllabus and discuss any concerns that they may have about the teaching or the specific content of the RE sessions. If after discussion, the family still wishes for their child to be withdrawn from RE sessions, alternative arrangements will be agreed between the School and family.

Impact

As a result of the provision above, children at Vale School will be the best they can be and:

- Are supported to make links between their own lives and those of others in their community and the wider world
- Develop an understanding of other people's cultures and ways of life.
- Feel valued as individuals and begin to recognise that their beliefs and their families' beliefs are valued and celebrated.
- Develop an enjoyment of creativity, achievement, confidence and engagement.

This is evidenced through: learning walks, book scrutiny, Tapestry and planning. Outcomes in topic books and on Tapestry evidence a broad and balanced RE curriculum and demonstrate progress in the acquisition of identified key knowledge, vocabulary and skills.