

Religious Education

Intent, Implementation and Impact

Intent:

The role of Religious Education at Thomas Gray is to help prepare and equip all pupils for life in contemporary Britain by enabling them to acquire a good level of religious literacy. This means to gain an understanding of the diverse beliefs and religious practices of our faith communities, to understand the non-religious view held by a number of people in our society, and to respect the right of all people to make these very personal choices. The Discovery RE scheme that we follow uses an enquiry-based approach to learning. Using this enquiry-based model well, children's critical thinking skills can be developed, their motivation to learn increased, and their knowledge and understanding of, and empathy with people and their beliefs, religious or otherwise, will be enhanced. This approach takes very seriously the philosophy that children are free to make their own choices and decisions concerning religion and belief. RE does not try to persuade but rather to inform and develop the skills with which evaluation can take place.

Implementation:

At Thomas Gray we follow the Discovery RE scheme of work as recommended by the local authority (SACRE) which allows our children to explore, engage and reflect on principal religions and their practices. Lessons take an enquiry-based approach to teaching and learning through key questions. Each 'Discovery RE' unit begins with a 'Big Question' which the children can instantly engage with, regardless of their own beliefs and worldviews. Throughout the course of the unit, an enquiry takes place as a class to explore the 'Big Question', in which the children are co-travellers on the journey rather than followers. Each RE lesson will provide an opportunity to explore, build knowledge or understanding, and reflect on the subject of the enquiry. By the end of the unit, each child reflects on what they have learned throughout the enquiry to reach their own conclusion based on evidence.

Impact:

Our belief is that, using an enquiry-based model well, children's critical thinking skills will be developed, their motivation to learn increased, and their knowledge and understanding of, and empathy with people and their beliefs, religious or otherwise, will be enhanced. Our children will have a better understanding of the religions that make up the UK landscape and how they can learn from and work alongside each other to create community cohesion. All children will be more informed about their position in the world, and the decisions they can make impacting their future. Our RE curriculum will promote inquisitive minds, respect, tolerance and understanding for all those around them including themselves. Our children will have a deep understanding of the main religions of the world, their community, and their future. They will understand the relevance of RE in today's modern world and how it affects our lives.