

RE Curriculum Intent

At Ellingham C of E Primary School, we teach Religious Education, in order that our pupils develop religious literacy. This means they are able to hold informed and balanced conversations about religion and beliefs. We aim to introduce them to the major world religions, and world views of people with, and without faith. This is to help them understand, and take their place in the global community, of which we are all part, with an attitude of compassion and respect.

In RE, we look at some of the big questions in life and study how people of different faiths and of no faith, respond to these challenging questions. Our pupils have the opportunity to evaluate and choose their own responses to these challenges, preparing them for life events in the future. As a church school, we also play an active part in our local church community and our pupils gain an understanding of church as a body of people with Christ at the centre.

Implementation

We teach RE in line with the Newcastle Diocesan RE syllabus in discrete weekly lessons and through whole school RE days, where we all learn about a theme in RE (e.g. light), or a festival such as Easter. RE is taught through an enquiry approach, where each lesson has a big question for pupils to answer. Pupils are encouraged to make links between different faiths in the Abrahamic and Dharmic religions, and to show respect and curiosity about all aspects of faith.

We use the Diocesan recommended scheme, 'Understanding Christianity' as a basis for our teaching and teach about other faiths through enquiry topics from the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan syllabus for RE. We aim to teach about Christianity for 50% of the time and other faiths 50% of the time. We respect that not everyone has a religious belief, and include world views such as humanism in our studies.

Wherever possible, we include visits to places of worship, or welcome visitors of all faiths, and none, to share their views and beliefs with our pupils, as a living faith in our society today. We recognise that every individual has a world view that is unique to them, and of equal value, and we encourage our pupils to develop their own world view, whilst learning about and respecting that of others.