

Religious Education



Intent

At Lemington Riverside Primary School the principal aim of Religious Education is to explore what people believe and what difference this makes to how they live, so that pupils can gain the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to handle questions raised by religion and belief, reflecting on their own ideas and ways of living.

As an academic subject, RE develops the critical thinking and understanding that are necessary in modern society with respect to faith and belief. RE is key to helping young people grow up in today's multifaith, diverse and connected city of Newcastle. RE aims to give pupils opportunities to develop their knowledge and understanding of religion and beliefs, and to contribute to the development of their own beliefs

In line with the 2020-2025 *A Journey of Discovery* guidance for Religious Education, Newcastle SACRE (Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education) promotes, supports and encourages outstanding practice in the teaching of Religious Education (RE). The agreed syllabus aims to ensure that all children:

A. Know about and understand a range of religions and worldviews, so that they can:

- describe, explain and analyse beliefs and practices, recognising the diversity which exists within and between communities and amongst individuals.
- identify, investigate and respond to questions posed and responses offered by some of the sources of wisdom found in religions and worldviews.
- appreciate and appraise the nature, significance and impact of different ways of expressing meaning.

B. Express ideas and insights about the nature, significance and impact of religions and worldviews, so that they can:

- explain reasonably their ideas about how beliefs, practices and forms of expression influence individuals and communities.
- express with increasing discernment their personal reflections and critical responses to questions and teachings about identity, diversity, meaning and value, including ethical issues.
- appreciate and appraise different dimensions of a religion or worldview.

C. Acquire and deploy the skills needed to engage seriously with religions and worldviews, so that they can:

- find out about and investigate key concepts and questions of belonging, meaning, purpose and truth, responding creatively.
- enquire into what enables different individuals and communities to live together respectfully for the well-being of all.
- articulate beliefs, values and commitments clearly in order to explain why they may be important in their own and other people's lives.

At Lemington Riverside, we are committed to providing our children with an exciting and positive learning environment, in which they have the opportunity to develop their knowledge and understanding of religions while contributing to their spiritual, moral social and cultural development.

Implementation

Religious Education taught at Lemington Riverside (according to the Newcastle Agreed Syllabus Religious Education 2020-2025) ensures pupils encounter core concepts in religions and beliefs in a coherent way, developing their understanding and their ability to handle questions of religions and belief. At Lemington Riverside, the teaching and learning approach has core elements which are woven together to provide breadth and balance within teaching and learning about religion and beliefs:

RE is taught by studying one religion at a time (systemic units) and then including thematic units, which build on learning by comparing the religions, beliefs and practices studied. Teachers link with key dates and religious festivals, providing

opportunities to celebrate festivals and religions with greater relevance and consistency and enhances a cross-curricular approach.

Children have the opportunity to visit many different places of worship such as local churches, a synagogue, Gurdwara, mosque and temple. To further deepen learning, Religious visitors are organised to talk to the children about their faith, festivals and beliefs. These visits provide the children with opportunities to ask questions and have hands on experiences such as: making Christingles and Diwali lights and singing Christmas carols. These trips and visitors are organised termly, focusing on the topics that the children are studying.

Impact

At Lemington Riverside, we seek to ensure that all children in our school are educated to develop spiritually, academically, emotionally and morally to enable them to better understand themselves and others and to cope with the opportunities, challenges and responsibilities of living in a rapidly changing, multicultural world. Regular assemblies and celebrations of learning help to celebrate the diversity of the school community and promote positive images of people in the wider community, including their beliefs, traditions, culture, language and history.

If learners need support, we aim to enrich our children's cultural capital through the following methods:

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- Our fully-funded, 'Lemington Experience' provides our children with an incredibly unique offer. Every pupil at LRPS will visit key religious sites and experience visitors in school to inform children about religion throughout their time at the school, free of charge.
- As a school we have invested heavily in the Lemington experience; we believe firmly that by enriching our children's experiences, we enrich their Religious Education vocabulary.

We firmly believe that our children must experience the plethora of learning and experiences that our local area has. Where permitted, we believe that children must experience Religious Education rather than 'doing' it

Religious Education in the Early Years:

RE sits very firmly within the areas of personal, social and emotional development and understanding of the world. From an early age, the children at Lemington Riverside learn to develop a positive sense of themselves, and others, and learn how to form positive and respectful relationships. They will do this through encountering religious and non-religious worldwide views through special people, books, places and objects and by visiting places of worship. The children will have the opportunity to listen to and talk about stories. They are introduced to subject-specific words and

use all of their senses to explore beliefs, practices and forms of expression. In the Early Years, the children ask questions and reflect on their own feelings and experiences. They use their imaginations and curiosity to develop their appreciation of, and wonder at, the world in which they live.

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