

INGLEBY MILL PRIMARY SCHOOL



Religious Education Policy

January 2023

Mrs Jo Bettley - subject Leader
Due to be reviewed January 2026



Imagine
Make a Difference
Persevere
Succeed

At Ingleby Mill we aim to ensure that our whole community provides children with the opportunity for growth and development through the acquisition of skills, attitudes and knowledge in a safe, encouraging and sometimes challenging environment.

Why teach religious education in school?

RE in primary and secondary schools enables pupils to take their place within a diverse, multi-religious and multi-secular society. At its best it is intellectually challenging and personally enriching. It affords pupils both the opportunity to see the religion and non-religion in the world, and the opportunity to make sense of their own place in the world. (Ofsted 2021)

Religious education is an essential part of every pupil's entitlement. Both learning about religion and learning from it enriches and extends understanding about the world in which we all live. All pupils should have the opportunity to explore the nature of religion in such a way that their views are based on sound knowledge and thoughtful reflection. Religious education should promote reflectiveness and self-awareness to assist children in their exploration of the meaning of life. By developing discernment and understanding, pupils are encouraged to think for themselves and overcome prejudice and ignorance.

Religious Education at Ingleby Mill Primary School

What do we want our children to learn?

At Ingleby Mill Primary School, we believe that it is vital for all our pupils to learn from and about religion so that they can understand the world around them. Through Religious Education, pupils develop their knowledge of the world faiths and the connections between them. It develops their understanding and awareness of the beliefs, values and traditions of other individuals, societies, communities and cultures.

Our curriculum ensures opportunities for children to develop positive attitudes and values, to ask questions about the world and to reflect on and relate their learning in RE to their own experiences. It enables pupils to develop respect for, and sensitivity to, others, in particular those whose faith and beliefs are different to their own. The intent is to make sure that children understand the relevance of RE in today's modern world and how it affects our lives.

How will we do this?

RE is taught in accordance with the Stockton Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education which was renewed in 2019. The content of the curriculum reflects the fact that religious traditions in Great Britain and in Ingleby Barwick are in the main Christian, while taking account of the teaching and practices of other principal religions and those with no religious beliefs. Our lessons are high quality, coherent, progressive and make cross-curricular links.

The key religious concepts, knowledge and vocabulary are revisited and developed throughout school. We encourage children to question each other, think critically and discuss their knowledge during and after topics have been taught. This allows children to review their prior knowledge, make sure it is secure and build upon it.

Our Religious Education curriculum is enhanced further with visits to places of worship in our local area, visits from specialist speakers and parents and religious assemblies.

What impact will it have?

The RE curriculum will promote inquisitive minds, respect, tolerance and understanding. Our lessons enable high quality work to be produced and evidenced, showcasing a deep understanding of the main religions of the world and their community. This evidence will be seen through using the correct vocabulary, explanations and respectful opinions in class discussions, evidence seen in books as well as cross-curricular evidence such as religious and cultural art work, drama, craft and presentations. Our teaching enables children to extend their own sense of value and promotes their spiritual growth and development.

Inclusion

RE is taught to all children in school as part of our broad and balanced curriculum, whatever their ability or background. Differentiated planning and effective teaching takes into account the varying ability and needs of our children.

We recognise that our school community is rich and diverse with children from a range of religions within the local community as well as those with no religious beliefs. We value input from children and families about their experience and religious practice, where this is appropriate and where they feel comfortable to share.

Every pupil is legally entitled to religious education as part of a broad and balanced curriculum. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from religious education lessons in school on the grounds that they wish to provide their own RE. In order to do so, parents should first make an appointment with the head teacher to discuss the reasons for this request and to discuss how their child might be supervised during RE lessons.

Assessment

Children demonstrate their ability in RE through a variety of different ways. Teachers assess children's learning in RE making judgements through observations, discussions, reflections, participation in activities and completion of tasks. The teacher regularly gives children written or verbal feedback during lessons. Children in key stage 2 keep track of and revisit their learning using RE knowledge organisers.

Review

The policy for RE will be reviewed every three years or sooner if required in light of changes to school, local or national requirements including changes to the SACRE locally agreed syllabus.