Moorsway Federation

Religious Education

Intent

At the Moorsway Federation, being a good theologian means that our children are curious about the world around them, asking deeper and meaningful questions allowing time for reflection. We want our children to accept that some people have different opinions, be a critical thinker and to show an awareness of religion that is relevant now and to their lives beyond school.

In line with the 2019-2024 Devon and Torbay Agreed Syllabus, we promote, support and encourage outstanding practice in the teaching of Religious Education (RE). The agreed syllabus aims to ensure that all children:

1. Make sense of a range of religious and non-religious beliefs, so that they can:

- identify, describe, explain and analyse beliefs and concepts in the context of living religions using appropriate vocabulary.

- explain how and why these beliefs are understood in different ways, by individuals and within communities.

- recognise how and why sources of authority (e.g. texts, teachings, traditions, leaders) are used, expressed and interpreted in different ways, developing skills of interpretation.

2. Understand the impact and significance of religious and non-religious beliefs, so that they can:

- examine and explain how and why people express their beliefs in diverse ways.

- recognise and account for ways in which people put their beliefs into action in diverse ways, in their everyday lives, within their communities and in the wider world.

- appreciate and appraise the significance of different ways of life and ways of expressing meaning.

3. Make connections between religious and non-religious beliefs, concepts, practices and ideas studied, so that they can:

- evaluate, reflect on and enquire into the key concepts and questions studied, responding thoughtfully and creatively, giving good reasons for their responses.

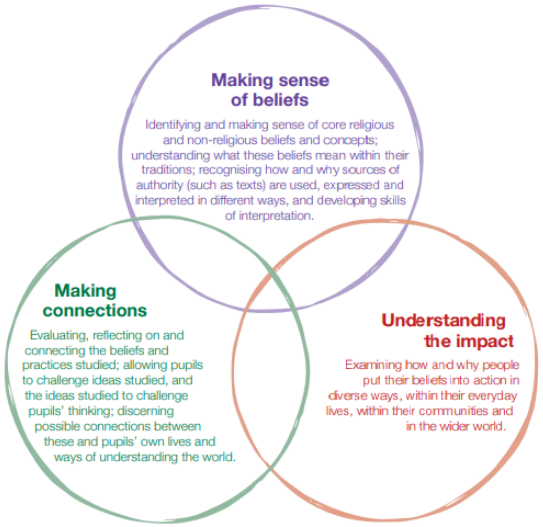
- challenge the ideas studied, and allow the ideas studied to challenge their own thinking, articulating beliefs, values and commitment clearly in response.

- discern possible connections between the ideas studied and their own ways of understanding the world, expressing their critical responses and personal reflections with increasing clarity and understanding.

Within Moorsway Federation, 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 in the Moorsway Federation (according to the Devon and Torbay Agreed Syllabus Religious Education 2019-2024) ensures pupils encounter core concepts in religions and beliefs in a coherent way, developing their understanding and their ability to handle questions being open and objective. It endeavours to promote a positive attitude towards people, respecting their right to hold different beliefs to their own. Within the Moorsway Federation, the teaching and learning approach has three core elements which are woven together to provide breadth and balance, these will allow for overlap between elements that suit the religion, concept and question being explored:



Children have the opportunity to experience different religions through visits to different places of worship, for example; Plymouth Orthodox Synagogue, Plymouth Mosque and a Greek Orthodox Church. 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, Diwali dancing, singing Christmas carols. These trips and visitors are organised termly, focusing on the topics that the children are studying. Through these experiences we can celebrate the range of cultures and the diversity of our schools and communities.

RE is taught weekly, but parents do have the right to request that their child be excused from all or part of the RE provided at school. At times, RE may be taught through a class topic or as a whole school RE day. The teacher may develop their own key questions linked to the themes in the syllabus, allowing links with other subject areas where appropriate. Lessons are planned and delivered in a variety of ways ensuring that all children can access and participate in lessons. Interactive, practical activities encourage the children to discuss their ideas and extend their understanding of difficult concepts and challenging questions.

Impact

Within the Moorsway Federation, we seek to ensure that all children in our schools are educated to develop spiritually, academically, emotionally and morally to enable them to better understand themselves and others and to cope with the multicultural world. Regular assemblies or Collective Worships will 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.

By the end of KS2 the children within our Federation will have extended their knowledge and understanding of a variety of religions and beliefs. They will have developed a religious vocabulary and will be able to reflect on questions of meaning, offering their own thoughtful and informed insights into religious and secular world views. The children will have explored ultimate questions of beliefs and values in relation to a range of contemporary issues in an ever changing society.

Foundation Stage

RE sits very firmly within the areas of personal, social and emotional development and understanding of the world. Children in the Moorsway Federation, 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 Foundation, 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.