

Hertford St Andrew Curriculum Plan

Religious Education

What is it like to be a theologian at Hertford St Andrew?

As theologians in Hertford St Andrew our Christian ethos is embedded within our scheme of learning and all areas of teaching. We aim to engage, inspire and challenge pupils with their knowledge of the Christian faith as well as other faiths practised in the wider community (Islam, Sikhism, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Judaism). We are tolerant to all faiths and will develop a respectful understanding of traditions, values and events through practical and written methods. All pupils are able to share their experiences in a safe context and see that their religion or belief is valued and respected. In Hertford St Andrew, we aim to expose our theologians to opportunities to learn outside the classroom visiting places of worship as well as inviting religious leaders to visit the school. We also take pride in exploring cultural and significant theme days related to our own Christian ethos and other religious and cultural events. For example, we are able to provide the children with an opportunity to join in with a Diwali dance workshop and various assemblies bringing light to festivals around the world and events like St Andrew's Day and Remembrance.

What do we want for all our theologians?

We would like all pupils to develop an understanding of how RE prepares them to become respectful and broadminded members of society.

As a Church of England school, we provide opportunities for our children to experience life in the Christian faith and to know God through Christian teaching.

We also want children of all faiths and none to see themselves reflected in a broad curriculum that teaches children about religion and reflects the society we live in.

Inspired by our bible verse, **"Let your light shine," Matthew 5:16** we aim for our RE curriculum to contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of our children and community.

How have we designed and adapted our curriculum to meet the needs of our children?

Our RE curriculum follows the Hertfordshire Agreed Syllabus and is delivered through a creative approach where all children are able to engage with curriculum. The RE curriculum encompasses our love for God and actively promotes it through song, written engagement, practical elements and discovery and wonder through questioning. Teachers are able to adapt teaching to suit the needs of the class, from delivering a lesson about the 'Annunciation' (Luke Chapter 1 V.26-38) through Drama to looking at the Jewish festival of 'Rosh Hashanah' through traditional song sung

partly in Hebrew and tasting some of the traditional foods so that all of our theologians are able to explore all religions in a matter of different ways.

While the statutory requirement for RE does not extend to children under compulsory school age, it can form a valuable part of the educational experience in the EYFS. It contributes particularly to the personal, social and emotional development, communication, language and literacy and their knowledge and understanding of the world and creative development.

What do we teach and when?

Our religious education curriculum follows the Hertfordshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education supported by the Emmanuel Project resource. This resource provides children with a wide range of exciting opportunities following a three-step learning process of Engage, Enquire and Evaluate. Our young theologians will have the opportunity to learn religious terminology like 'incarnation' and understand the meaning behind biblical texts as well as answering big theological questions like 'Why was Jesus given the name Saviour?' and 'Why is the Torah such a joy?', as they continue to **aim high** with their learning in relation to a range of faiths,

How do we know children are learning and developing their skills?

During RE lessons, teachers assess and support with:

- Verbal feedback
- Individual modelling in response to need
- Sharing of good examples
- Allocation of TA support as needed
- Monitoring of vocabulary
- Shared discussion and question and answer

As children progress through our RE curriculum we expect:

- Increased knowledge of Christianity and other faiths
- Increased understanding of what it means to live as a Christian, and to live in other faiths
- Increased tolerance of all faiths and none, in line with our British Values

In our daily life we expect:

- Increased reverence and respectful behaviour
- Evidence of our Christian values in practice
- Shared experiences of collective worship to show deepening understanding of Christianity and ability to reflect
- Mindful and thoughtful approaches to worship and daily life