

Religious Education at Meir Heath Academy



INTENT:

At Meir Heath Academy, we believe that it is important for all our pupils to learn from and about religion, so that they can understand the world around them. The aim of Religious Education in our school is to help children to acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and the other principal religions represented in Great Britain; to appreciate the way that religious beliefs shape life and behaviour, develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues, and enhance their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

R.E. plays an important role, along with all other curriculum areas, particularly PSHE, in promoting social awareness and understanding in our children. We encourage our pupils to ask questions about the world and to reflect on their own beliefs, values and experiences. We include and promote British values, ensuring that children are aware of their rights and responsibilities as UK citizens.

Our curriculum is designed to encourage creativity, imagination, enquiry, debate, discussion and independence.



IMPLEMENTATION:

We use the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education developed by Entrust Staffordshire as the basis for our curriculum.

At Meir Heath Academy, it has been agreed that having taken into account the requirements and guidelines presented in the Agreed Syllabus, the following religions have been selected for study:

- **Christianity**
- **Islam**
- **Judaism**
- **Hinduism**
- **Buddhism**
- **Sikhism**

From the syllabus it is required that:

In the Early Years Foundation Stage the learning outcomes are referenced to Christianity and as appropriate to a range of other beliefs and cultures.

In KS1 and KS2, Christianity is studied and other principal religions in some depth.

There are no presumptions made as to the religious backgrounds and beliefs and values of the children and the staff. We value the religious background of all members of the school community and hope that this will encourage

individuals to share their own experiences with others freely. All religions and their communities are treated with respect and sensitivity and we value the links, which can be made between home, school, and a faith community. We acknowledge that each religion studied can contribute to the education of all our pupils. We promote teaching in Religious Education that stresses open enquiry and first-hand experiences wherever possible for both staff and children.



IMPACT:

The children at Meir Heath Academy enjoy learning about other religions and why people choose, or choose not to follow a religion. Through their R.E. learning, the children are able to make links between their own lives and those of others in their community and in the wider world, developing an understanding of other people's cultures and ways of life.

