



ST JAMES
C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

DREAM • BELIEVE • LEARN • ACHIEVE

RE CURRICULUM POLICY

At St James Primary School we have aspirations for every single child to succeed. Through our Christian vision we thoroughly believe that all children have the potential to thrive regardless of their starting points, personal context and characteristics. Our children learn through a supportive and purposeful curriculum, linked tightly to national curriculum objectives, that demonstrates that "With God there is no limit to what you can do. There is no obstacle you can't overcome. Through Him all things are possible." (Matthew 19:26) Our staff are committed to developing a love of learning, whilst developing the skills and values to support the all-round development of every pupil. St James C of E Primary School is a special place where we dream, believe, learn and achieve.

Intent

Religious education at St James enables all our children, whatever their ethnic make-up, to investigate and reflect upon some of the most fundamental questions asked by people. We develop our children's knowledge and understanding of the major world faiths, and we address the primary questions in life: the meaning of life, the existence of a divine spirit and its impact and relevance on today's society including each and every person.

As a result of the wide range of cultures within our setting, we enable and encourage all our children, from all diverse, ethnic and religious backgrounds, to develop a sound knowledge of Christianity and other major world religions. The children at St James reflect on what it means to have a faith and develop their own spiritual knowledge and understanding. Our children are guided to learn about their own and different religions and to learn from the religions they study, applying, discussing and assimilating their understanding.

Long term memory

Knowledge empowers and nourishes children; it belongs to the many, not the few. A knowledge-rich curriculum has the power to address issues of social disadvantage. Leaders at St James instil high ambitions so that all pupils can take full advantage of opportunities, responsibilities and experiences in later life.

Learning can be defined as alteration in long term memory. With this being the case, leaders have implemented strategies taken from cognitive science to enhance and support pupils in the transfer of new knowledge into their long-term memory.

Teaching staff have drawn on research focussing on Cognitive Load Theory, and understand that pupils working memory is limited and that new content should be introduced to pupils in small, manageable steps to avoid overloading the working memory.

Leaders utilise 'dual-coding' strategies to support pupils in integrating new knowledge into long term memory. By providing simple images to pupils when new content is introduced, they can use both visual and auditory strategies to process the information, forming a greater link with long term memory. 'Spaced retrieval' is also employed by teachers to enhance pupils' retrieval and secure knowledge into long term memory. Lessons typically begin with a daily retrieval opportunity and additional retrieval sessions are planned over the year.

Implementation

At St James RE is taught throughout school and in accordance with the statutory requirements. Due to the diverse culture of our school we provide relevant and varied experiences of different religions through

Super Learning Days. Teachers have the opportunity to immerse themselves in RE and to provide outstanding teaching to pupils whilst gaining invaluable CPD.

We have adopted the Blackburn Diocese scheme of Work - Questful RE which is used alongside the Understanding Christianity scheme of work. These scheme has been amended and adjusted to suit and match the ethnic make-up of our school community, allowing all children to flourish and achieve.

Due to the diverse needs of our pupils, we understand, the need to develop an awareness of spiritual and moral issues of life experiences.

We allow and facilitate our children to develop their knowledge and understanding of Christianity, other major world religions and value systems found in Britain in general as well as those specific to our school.

The vast majority of our pupils will develop an understanding of what it means to be committed to a religious tradition and the impact it has on a follower's life.

We provide opportunities for our children to be able to reflect on and learn from their own experiences, developing a personal response to the main fundamental questions of life.

The diverse nature of St James means it is vital that the children develop an understanding of religious traditions, including their own and to appreciate the cultural differences found in School and in the world today.

We strive to ensure that all our children develop investigative, questioning and challenging skills, so that through research they are able to make reasoned judgements about religious issues, values and moral issues.

Staff model and actively promote respect for other peoples' views, religions, ethnicity, beliefs and cultures, in order to be able to celebrate the diversity found in our school and in society at large. Staff ensure that where appropriate RE is linked with other areas of the curriculum ensuring strong cross curricular links are made.

Parental Rights of Withdrawal from RE lessons:

Parents may withdraw their children from Religious Education. If such a request for withdrawal is made, the Head teacher should explore the reasons for the request and seek to arrive at an accommodation. It may be that only some elements of Religious Education or Worship are objected to.

Impact

At St James RE is part of the fabric of the school and makes a distinctive contribution to the whole school curriculum. Through teaching RE our children are able to discuss spiritual and moral issues and understand how they may shape their lives and experiences, whatever their cultural/religious make up.

Our children will develop an understanding of Christianity and other major religions and know how they relate to British values, and specifically to St James School values.

Through RE children will grow as individuals and become confident in reflecting upon their own personal responses and sharing their ideas, whilst building on their thinking and listening skills.

The invaluable skills our children will develop at St James ensure they are prepared for life in the multi-cultural and religious community of Britain, therefore preparing them for their future life in society. Our children have the awareness of, and the ability to, empathise with people from different cultures and backgrounds.

Prepared by: Mrs S Pilling

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