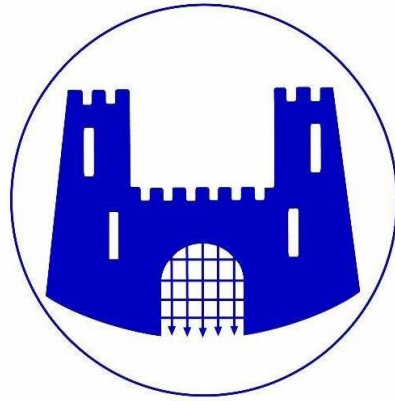


Ludgershall Castle Primary School



RE Policy
2022

Our shared vision for Ludgershall Castle Primary School is of a happy, vibrant learning community, improving together. We are working with pupils, parents and the wider community to create the supportive atmosphere of trust and mutual support in which we all thrive.

'Learn, Have Fun, Succeed' are carefully chosen words that encapsulate the aims of our school. With this in mind:

- ☆ We want learning and teaching to be fun for all;
- ☆ We always 'have a go' and try our best and celebrate our successes;
- ☆ We want to care for and respect everyone in our school as everybody matters;
- ☆ We want school to be a safe place for everybody;
- ☆ We know right from wrong; we always try to be fair and make the right choices;
- ☆ We know that learning is for life; and
- ☆ We all want to be good citizens.



Religious Education is unique in the school curriculum in that it is neither a core subject nor a foundation subject but the 1988 Education Act states that 'Religious Education has equal standing in relation to core subjects of the National Curriculum in that it is compulsory for all registered pupils'.

Ludgershall Castle Primary School is a Foundation school therefore we deliver RE in line with the Locally Agreed Syllabus; Discovery RE.

Discovery RE advocates an enquiry model with a 4-step approach as the basis for implementation. Every unit (enquiry) is based around a key question. The key question for the enquiry is such that it demands an answer that weighs up 'evidence' (subject knowledge) and reaches a conclusion based on this. This necessitates children using their subject knowledge and applying it to the enquiry question, rather than this knowledge being an end in itself. Discovery RE focuses on critical thinking skills, on personal reflection into the child's own thoughts and feelings, on growing subject knowledge and nurturing spiritual development.

The children start from their own experience to ensure understanding of the concept being studied then move into investigating that concept in depth from the point of view of the chosen religion. This continues over three lessons of investigation and discussion throughout which embeds subject knowledge. These lessons not only support the children with embedding their RE knowledge, but also contribute to their oracy and critical thinking skills. Exposure to and analysis of religious texts can also enhance their reading, comprehension and inference skills.

As we have mixed year group classes in our school we teach the scheme as part of our alternate Year A/B programme to ensure coverage over the two years. This means we teach the lower year group targets in one year and the higher year group targets the following year. This also ensures children do not repeat learning as they move up through the school.

Why study RE?

In Religious Education at Ludgershall Castle Primary School we aim that pupils might:-

- Develop a knowledge and understanding of Christianity and its impact on our local community, and on our society today
- Develop a knowledge and understanding of some of the other principal religious traditions represented in Great Britain today
- Develop a sense of respect for religious traditions, beliefs and practice.
- Grow in their spiritual development
- Develop a sense of awe and wonder and mystery
- Develop skills and attitudes which will support their personal, moral, social and cultural development
- Explore some questions of meaning and consider how the world's religions have responded to them.
- Think about their own beliefs and values in the light of the beliefs of others, both religious and non-religious, and the values of the school community.

Intent:

Within our broad and balanced curriculum at Ludgershall Castle Primary, we recognise RE as an important curriculum subject - both in its own right and as contributing to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our pupils.

In line with the Wiltshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education, Religious Education at Ludgershall Castle Primary aims to develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of the religions and beliefs which form today's society.

The intention is that RE in Ludgershall Castle Primary School will:

- Develop pupil's knowledge and understanding of, the beliefs and practices of Christians and people of other principal world religions, and non-religious world views.
- Enable pupils to explain how beliefs and practices can inform and change the way people see the world and the way they live and treat others.
- Help pupils to gain an understanding of differences held within a religious or non-religious worldview and of the similarities of beliefs and practices held in common by people within and across traditions.
- Equip pupils to be sensitive to others' beliefs, able to express their own views well, show curiosity and have the skills to ask appropriate questions when meeting people different to themselves.

Implementation:

Religious Education taught at Ludgershall Castle Primary School:

- Develops pupils knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other principal religions (Islam, Judaism, Hinduism).
- Uses the scheme Discovery RE to plan a RE curriculum which offers broad content, depth of learning and coherence between concepts and skills.
- Focuses on key questions provided in the Wiltshire Agreed Syllabus to underpin lessons with an enquiry model. This enables pupils to learn about religion and beliefs and from religion and beliefs.
- Enables pupils to revisit and build upon their prior knowledge of the different beliefs and practices taught across the key stages.
- Encourages cross-curricular links, particularly with PSHE, Citizenship and promoting British Values.
- Often provides opportunities for pupils to develop skills of investigation, expression, empathy and reflection through activities such as circle times, drama performances and art work as well as written recording.
- Develops pupils attitudes of self-awareness, respect for all, open-mindedness and questioning, curiosity, appreciation and wonder during their time at our school.
- Provides opportunities to visit places of worship and to meet and learn from visitors from faith communities.
- Offers opportunities for personal reflection and spiritual development in lessons and through our programme of assemblies.

Impact:

At Ludgershall Castle Primary, we understand that our teaching of Religious Education makes a significant contribution to the personal development and well-being of our pupils and also promotes respect and tolerance of others within our diverse society. Through our RE teaching, children are able to use religious vocabulary to help them recall knowledge and express their understanding of a range of religions.

We recognise the importance of our Religious Education in encouraging community cohesion. Within our local school community we regularly visit St James' Church to celebrate Christian festivals and members from the church deliver their assemblies based on our Christianity topics being taught in RE to each class. They also deliver religious readings in school each week to different classes.

Cross Curricular Links

There are a number of cross curricular links which are listed below:

- ☆ English: The lessons taught in RE provide a great opportunity for discussion and provide many reading and writing activities. Exposure to and analysis of religious texts can also enhance children's reading, comprehension and inference skills.
- ☆ Maths: There are many religious stories where counting, patterning, and other mathematical concepts can be explored and supported. E.g. Noah's Ark, counting the animals two by two.
- ☆ Science: There are many opportunities to examine some of the fundamental questions in life, for example, the evolution of living things and how the world was created.
- ☆ History: Can be studied closely alongside to explore the rich culture behind each religion including cultural foods, festivals, regimes and celebrations as well as how/ why each religion started and how it has changed over time.
- ☆ Art: Children can look at important paintings in different cultures.
- ☆ Geography: Exploring settlements and understanding the locational choices of people and places can often be studied alongside religion and places of religious significance.
- ☆ Computing: On Purple Mash there are several resources under the Celebrations and Faiths section in Topics providing videos and information about the beliefs and festivals covered in Discovery RE.
- ☆ Music: The words of religious music form part of the beliefs, teaching and sources of the religions and beliefs being studied, as well as being relevant to the practice and way of life, and a key form of expressing meaning.
- ☆ PSHE: Helps promote multiculturalism and encourages children to develop their own views.

RE in EYFS

Within the Early Years Foundation Stage, Religious Education is included as part of Understanding the World. Understanding the World involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community.

ELG: People, Culture and Communities

Children at the expected level of development will:

- Understand that some places are special to members of their community. (Reception)
- Recognise that people have different beliefs and celebrate special times in different ways. (Reception)
- Know some similarities and differences between different religious and cultural communities in this country, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class. (ELG)

As part of the Discovery RE programme of learning children in the Early Years will discover many different religions (Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism) mainly through stories.

RE in Key Stage 1

In the Key Stage 1 Curriculum pupils should explore and expand on their knowledge and understanding around the beliefs and traditions followed in Christianity and Judaism. Children will become more aware of places of worship and celebrations that people that follow these religions have.

RE at Key Stage 2

In the Key Stage 2 Curriculum pupils should connect their previous learning and understand at a deeper level by exploring different religious beliefs, values and traditions. In Lower Key Stage 2, in Year A, the focus religions are Christianity and Judaism. Children are expected to understand people's beliefs, retell stories and recall events. In Year B children will explore the beliefs of Christianity and Hinduism and begin to understand traditions.

In Upper Key Stage 2 in Year A children revisit Islam and Christianity but use skills of a more advanced level, for example, analysis and evaluation. In Year B children will be learning about Hinduism and Christianity and will be expected to compare religious practices, question historical events and will begin to evaluate different stories.

Assessment and Recording

Assessment informs planning and it is good practice for staff to make assessments and keep notes which they find useful. Significant achievement or weakness may be noted and may serve as a basis for planning future challenges. Feedback to pupils about their own progress in RE aims to help children learn by being positive and constructive. Feedback is always given whilst a task is being carried out through discussion.

At Ludgershall Castle Primary School we assess the children and record on tracking sheets developed by our assessment lead. This indicates whether a child is working towards, at or above the expected level for their age group. These are updated regularly by the class teacher after teaching all lessons in each theme.