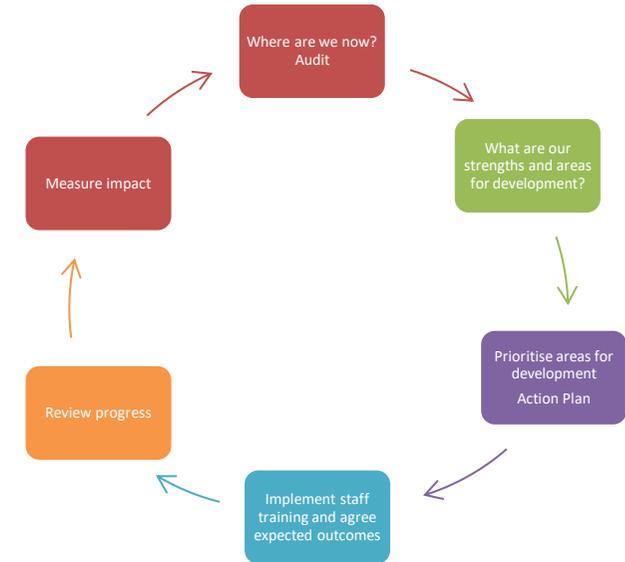


Religious Education

at Walton-on-the-Naze Primary

2019-2020



Intent:

First and foremost we want children of Walton-on-the-Naze Primary to feel happy in their own skin, to feel that they belong (in their class, peer group, school, home, family, and the wider world; their community, Walton-on-the-Naze-on-the-Naze, Essex, human society). We promote this by providing child-centred Religious Education lessons that meet the needs of the children at Walton-on-the-Naze Primary, in line with content guidance from the Essex syllabus ‘RE matters for every child’; more recently known as ‘exploRE’.

We intend for children, during their time at Walton-on-the-Naze Primary to develop tolerance, understanding and acceptance of diversity. We intend for them to explore (not presume, judge or mock) what they don’t yet understand or haven’t experienced. We intend for them to question their own thoughts, beliefs, actions and that of others but in polite and respectful ways – understanding that discussions, mutual respect (agreeing to disagree) and understanding are part of what creates the peaceful and productive world we wish to live in. We intend for children at Walton-on-the-Naze Primary to develop enquiring minds, become free-thinkers, and have the confidence and courage to explore their own ideas, queries and to embed these tolerance and acceptance skills enough to sustain them and take them when they leave Walton-on-the-Naze Primary for new pastures.

Implementation:

RE lessons at Walton-on-the-Naze Primary teach us that other people's opinions are just as important and valid as our own, even when they are different to our own and we don’t agree with them; that we ourselves are free to believe what we wish, as are others.

Because faith as an attribute, as a concept, does not require or rely on fact or evidence; Faith is by definition what we/others **believe**, and **choose to believe**.

RE taught at Walton-on-the-Naze Primary encourages philosophical thinking and discussions – it is more about teaching the children that there is no right or

wrong way - we are all free to believe what we wish, what our family wishes, make up our own minds as & when. However, finding out about other ways of life and talking about the similarities & differences promotes a more tolerant and peaceful world, to know it is ok to disagree and be different, but that it is more important to understand and accept differences not hate them.

Six of our World's religions ((Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Sikhism, Buddhism, Hinduism) as guided to us by 'exploRE') are focused on mostly during the Primary years, with the 7th (Humanism) being introduced in Year 6. During each of these foci children at Walton-on-the-Naze Primary are encouraged to reflect upon their own experiences and ideas, making the learning more relevant and personalised to them; the inspiration may be from 'exploRE'; but the reflection and application will always be more like one of self-discovery.

In EYFS RE is even more personal and environmental. The Reception children are discovering learning through first-hand experiences and play; developing a foundation of knowledge to support future discoveries. Learning opportunities arise from the children's interests, own backgrounds and our Western calendar. Opportunities may be more based on learning about differences in culture and lifestyle than of religion at this stage, as a way of beginning to open their young minds to similarities and differences and their knowledge of the world and community.

Examples of learning opportunities in EYFS may include:

For Chinese New Year the children may taste various Chinese foods, and try Chinese mark-making; During Autumn, to acknowledge the season, harvest and associated festivals the class may make Pumpkin Soup, create firework paintings; a child in EYFS may be a Hindu and so sensitively knowing this, when Diwali arises the teacher may invite the child's parent in perhaps to talk to the class, draw Bindi patterns or make Rangoli rice patterns with them, alternatively the teacher themselves may talk to the class about Diwali and provide resources for them to make clay Diwas (Diwali lamps).

RE Learning during the Primary ages at Walton-on-the-Naze Primary are provided in a variety of ways; tasks utilising Kagan partners and Kagan groups, visitors, visits off site, walks on site within the local environment – observing and appreciating nature, embarking on book or internet based research, creating sculptures, baking & tasting cultural foods, watching films or extracts, role play, art, exploring and comparing artefacts.

Walton-on-the-Naze Primary has links with Reverend Peter from the local All Saints Parish Church and Frinton Free church. Reverend Peter visits regularly to lead an assembly and he also supports the school's choir and hosts a Christmas service in his church which many of the children attend. Frinton Free church also regularly send colleagues to lead assemblies and hosts an event which the year 5 and 6 children attend.

Impact:

The impact will allow all children, regardless of background, upbringing, culture, beliefs, family values & routines, to recognise the value of individuality and diversity in our everyday lives; to begin to seek out similarities and common ground among others, and respect differences; understand and show tolerance and acceptance for beliefs and life choices different to their own. Understanding and accepting differences will help each child to know and feel that they, with their uniqueness, also belong in our diverse world. This self-confidence they can take with them through life. Children of Walton-on-the-Naze Primary will contribute to a more peaceful, more united future.