



# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OVERVIEW

## Intent

The aim of Religious Education at Prior's Mill 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 our behaviour, develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues and enhance their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

At Prior's Mill, we believe that it is vital for all our pupils to learn from and about religion, so that they can understand the world around them. Through Religious Education, pupils develop their knowledge of the world faiths, and their understanding and awareness of the beliefs, values and traditions of other individuals, societies, communities and cultures. We encourage our pupils to ask questions about the world and to reflect on their own beliefs, values and experiences. Trips to places of worship in our local area enhance our Religious Education curriculum. We use the Stockton Locally Agreed syllabus supplemented by the Diocese syllabus resource as the basis for our curriculum.

Religious Education is taught throughout the school in such a way as to reflect the overall aims, values, and vision of the school. At Prior's Mill, Religious Education plays an important role, along with all other curriculum areas, particularly PSHE, in promoting the spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development of our children.

## Implementation

The RE Leader is provided with additional Subject Leader days, in addition to their PPA, to plan the RE curriculum. As part of this planning process, teachers need to plan the following: A detailed RE Medium Term Plan, that outlines knowledge (including vocabulary) all children must master. A series of lessons for RE, which carefully plans for progression and depth; to support learners' ability to block learning and increase space in the working memory. Challenge questions for pupils to apply their learning in a philosophical/open manner and finally trips and visiting experts who will enhance the learning experience.

The RE leader is very experienced and has worked closely with Caz Weir and Margaret Gibson (Durham Education team RE advisors). The school uses the local agreed SACRE planning to ensure consistency and progression as well as the Diocese syllabus to support additional units. Christianity forms the focus of RE lessons but all other major religions are also taught. There are close links with the local church. Pupils have re-enacted christenings etc. with local clergy. Pupils visit other places of worship locally to enhance their knowledge. For example, Sikh Temple trip (Year 5), the local church (Year 1). RE themed days reflect our church school status and further enhance the curriculum. For example, Prayer days, Harvest Celebrations, Christmas Nativities, Eucharist, Pentecost and a Year 6 Leavers Celebration.



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At Prior's Mill, it has been agreed that having considered the requirements and guidelines presented in the Local Agreed Syllabus, the following religions have been selected for study:

- Christianity
- Islam
- Judaism
- Hinduism
- Sikhism

Christianity is the predominant religion in the school's pupil population and in the community surrounding the school. As stated in our vision we teach the children we are following in the footsteps of Jesus.

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 are, and 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

Our Religious Education Curriculum is high quality, well thought out and is planned to demonstrate progression. If children are keeping up with the curriculum, they are deemed to be making good or better progress. In addition, we measure the impact of our curriculum through the following methods: A reflection on standards achieved against the planned outcomes; a celebration of learning for each term, which demonstrates progression across the school including pupil discussions about their learning.

The children at Prior's Mill Primary enjoying learning lots 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. R.E. acts as a hub, therefore, between social aspects of learning, science and geography. Through R.E., our children are developing an understanding of other people's cultures and ways of life, which they are then able to communicate to the wider community.

R.E. offers our children the means by which to understand how other people choose to live



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and to understand why they choose to live in that way. As such, R.E. is invaluable in an ever changing and shrinking world.

RE teaching is thorough, methodical and well evidenced. The RE leader shares her expertise with staff. Pupils achieve well and assessment systems are well established. RE Quality Mark Gold achieved.