



Religious Education at Braunston School



Braunston School is a Church of England school and our core Christian values of reconciliation, respect and reverence, resilience, reflection and responsibility provide the framework for all of our aims and actions. Recognising our historic C of E foundation, Braunston School preserves and develops its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England.

Intent:

Here, at Braunston School, the principal aim of teaching religious education (R.E.) is to enable pupils to hold balanced and informed conversations about religion and belief. Through our teaching, we help children to acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and the other principal religions represented in Great Britain. We teach our pupils to appreciate the way that religious beliefs shape life and behaviour and develop their ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues; enhancing each child's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

This principal aim incorporates the following intent of R.E. at Braunston School. For pupils to:

- Know about and understand Christianity as a diverse global living faith through the exploration of core beliefs; using an approach that critically engages with biblical text.
- Gain knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews; appreciating diversity, continuity and change within the religions and world views being studied.
- Engage with challenging questions of meaning and purpose raised by human existence and experience.
- Recognise the concept of religion and its continuing influence on Britain's cultural heritage and in the lives of individuals and societies in different times, cultures and places.
- Explore their own religious, spiritual and philosophical ways of living, believing and thinking.
- Become religiously literate, giving theologically informed and thoughtful account of Christianity as a living and diverse faith.
- Show an informed and respectful attitude to religions and non-religious world views in their search for God and meaning.
- Engage in meaningful and informed dialogue with those of other faiths and none.

- Reflect critically and responsibly on their own spiritual, philosophical and ethical convictions.

Implementation

The teaching of R.E. throughout Braunston School follows 'The Diocese of Peterborough Diocesan Syllabus for Religious Education' supported by the 'Understanding Christianity' resource. It takes the form of weekly lessons and focus R.E. days, depending on the context of the learning taking place. Children's work is recorded either within their own dedicated R.E. book or in our class floor book, which enables us to record and reflect upon class R.E. inspired drama, discussions and debates which may not be formally recorded.

Planned progression built into the R.E. curriculum means that the children are increasingly challenged as they move through the school. Progress in R.E. at Braunston School can be characterised by:

- Acquiring wider and more detailed knowledge of religious beliefs and practices.
- Deepening understanding of the meaning of stories, symbols, events and practices.
- More fluent and competent use of religious language and terminology.
- Increased levels in skills of responding to questions of identity, meaning, purpose, values and commitment. Good RE always includes engagement, reflection, response and evaluation (personal and critical). At the end of each session we encourage pupils to reflect and evaluate what they have learned and contextualise this within their own lives.

For more information about each year group's long-term plan, please see our R.E. Long Term Plan document.

Impact

Our R.E. curriculum is of a high quality and is planned to demonstrate progression. If children are engaging with the curriculum in the ways outlined in the implementation phase, 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;
- Tracking of attainment at the end of each unit;
- Pupil discussions about their learning, recorded in our class floor books

More generally at Braunston School, we seek to ensure that all pupils in our school are educated to develop spiritually, academically, emotionally and morally to enable them to better understand themselves and others and to cope with the opportunities, challenges and responsibilities of living in a rapidly changing, multicultural world. Celebrations of religious and non-religious festivals and visits from faith leaders, implemented alongside

weekly R.E. lessons and focus R.E. days, will help to celebrate the diversity of the wider community in Braunston and the surrounding areas. As such, R.E. at Braunston School is central to good local, national and global citizenship. It makes a significant contribution to the active promotion of mutual respect and tolerance of others' faiths and beliefs, a fundamental British value.

R.E. forms part of our school's aim to provide a broad and balanced education for all, whatever their ability. We achieve this by planning open – ended tasks that can have a variety responses, planning tasks of increasing difficulty and taking into account the learning needs of SEND pupils and those identified as highly able.

Foundation Stage

R.E in EYFS is encompassed within the 'Understanding the World' area of learning. This occurs through playing and exploring, being active, and through creative and critical thinking which takes place both inside and outside. Ongoing observational assessment of each child's achievements, interests and learning styles informs planning and leads to an EYFS Profile summary against the Understanding the World strand.