

Poulner Junior School

Religious Education

Intent

At Poulner Junior School we believe that Religious Education supports children in developing respect for others and understanding of beliefs, practices and values, as well as encouraging self-awareness and their own spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. It gives them opportunities to explore religious and non-religious concepts whilst extending their thinking skills, creativity, imagination and emotional well-being. It helps to foster mutual understanding of different backgrounds which will help children mature into respectful, empathetic, tolerant members of a multi-cultural society. It gives children the opportunity to develop and express opinions in a respectful climate, free from judgement or the promotion of one pathway over another.

Our intent is that we:

- Enable children to understand the nature of beliefs, practices and values of a range of world faiths.
- Teach tolerance and respect, challenging prejudice towards people of different faiths though providing opportunities to develop an understanding of the value of living in a multicultural, multi faith society.
- Develop an understanding of the religious and non-religious concepts that underpin much of human experience.
- Encourage children's own spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Implementation

Religious Education throughout Poulner Junior School is, in line with statutory requirements, planned and taught in accordance with the Hampshire County Agreed Syllabus, Living Difference III, being concept led rather than knowledge led. It plays an important role in the curriculum as a whole, particularly alongside PSHE, British Values and supporting and promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our children.

At Poulner Junior School, it has been agreed that having taken into account the requirements and guidelines presented in the Agreed Syllabus, the following religions have been selected for study:

- Christianity – across all 4 year groups
- Judaism – Years 3 & 4
- Islam – Years 5 & 6
- The non-religious ethical outlook of Humanism – Year 6

The concepts covered are a mixture of those common to all people such as belonging, wisdom; those shared by many religions such as prayer, God; and those distinctive to particular religions such as redemption.

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

Through the concept led curriculum, the children at Poulner Junior School enjoy learning about other religions and why people may, or may not, choose to follow a faith. They are able to make links between their own lives and those of others in the community as well as making connections where there are similarities between different faiths.

The children foster a sense of enquiry whilst finding out about each concept. They develop an understanding of different cultures and ways of life, whilst accepting that other people have different experiences from their own.

This knowledge is something which is key to them developing as tolerant and understanding members of the society both now as children and in the future as adults.