

Curriculum Statement for Religion & World Views

“Learning about different beliefs, ideas, thoughts and views of the peoples of the world.”

“We may have different religions, different languages, different coloured skin, but we all belong to one human race.”

(Kofi Annan)

Cherry Tree Primary School (CTPS) delivers Religion and World Views in line with the locally agreed syllabus for Essex, using Kapow as a planning scheme of work to inform the teachers at CTPS.

Aims and Objectives

We teach Religion & World Views at CTPS as we are a multicultural community with a scope of beliefs and religions. The three most common religions at CTPS are Christianity, Islam, and non-religious. The content we deliver and teach builds upon our understanding of the world, knowledge, and experience. We encourage and promote discussions in Religion & World Views to promote tolerance and acceptance of the beliefs of others. We want the children to become religiously literate; being able to articulate their thoughts, opinions, and feelings to develop in the wider world respectfully.

The curriculum we provide ensures that pupils have access to a variety of religions and world views and we provide and provoke challenging questions about the meaning and purpose of life, beliefs, commitment, belonging, and the issues of right and wrong. We endeavour to ensure children can relate and connect a personal experience to their own beliefs and ideas before moving on to religious views and knowledge. This ensures the children can articulate their own beliefs, practices, and values before moving on to express their opinions on other religious beliefs and world views.

We also want to encourage learners to develop a positive attitude towards others who hold different beliefs from their own. With the ever-changing world we strive to teach pupils to develop respect for others, help to challenge prejudice and build their sense of identity and belonging.

Teaching and Learning

Religion & World Views is a compulsory subject under the National Curriculum and is taught regularly, usually weekly, through Key Stages 1 and 2. The teaching of Religion & World Views can include collective worship, assemblies, and cross-curricular work. Where possible, we ensure the children are aware of significant Christian and non-Christian festivals within the religious calendar. In this way, they are exposed to a breadth of religious festivals which supports them in beginning to make connections between religions. We also celebrate World Religion Day each January when all classes Years 1–6 participate in an activity to celebrate and promote understanding

and peace between all religions, encouraging people to learn about other faiths and their followers.

Teachers have access to the Kapow – Religion & World Views planning scheme, which provides long-term plans, progression of skills and knowledge, individual lesson plans and resources for each lesson within a unit, and assessment for both children and teaching staff. With this scheme of work, teachers can be confident that each lesson, which is taught through a main overarching question, provides opportunities to use inquiry skills to explore each concept in greater depth to continue developing children's positionalality, considering their own beliefs while being open to diverse ideas. Lessons can be delivered in a variety of ways to support the needs of the class with adaptation as necessary. To ensure children reach their full potential, interactive and practical activities are planned to encourage children to discuss ideas, views and opinions as well as extend their knowledge and understanding of difficult concepts or questions. As well as the planning and delivery of high-quality lessons, teaching staff have access to various artefacts and religious items which can be used in conjunction with any lessons.

The subject leader has designed and created cover sheets for each unit for from Years 1-6, which include the main question being investigated, specific vocabulary, and key knowledge the children should know by the end of the unit. EYFS do not record Religion & World Views in books, they use a digital system called Tapestry, to record elements of the EYFS curriculum. Understanding the World is where Religion & World Views fits into their curriculum.

The children at CTPS enjoy learning about different religions and discussing their own experiences and opinions. They feel safe to learn new things and share their beliefs with others and feel their views are valued. Children can make links between their own experiences and the experiences of others, thus developing an understanding of other people's religions and ways of life.

Assessment and Recording

At CTPS we evaluate the children's Religion & World Views knowledge and how religiously literate they are, through in-class assessment for learning activities that occur throughout the sequence of lessons in each unit. Through Kapow, teaching staff have an assessment grid for each unit with 4-5 key learning statements detailing what the children should have achieved by the end of the unit. Staff can use this to inform their assessment. Kapow also gives clear guidance on what is expected of the children at an age-appropriate level.

Our visions and values are at the core of our community; caring, thriving, preparing, and succeeding. Our Religion & World Views curriculum cares about everyone, as we cover the 6 main religions as well as several other cultures. It allows the children to thrive, as we promote questioning and critical thinking about 'big questions' that relate to people regardless of religion. With the ever-changing world, our Religion & World Views curriculum prepares the children for life outside of school, supporting them to be resilient, tolerant, and responsible members of society.