



Walter Infant School and Nursery Religious Education Statement 2021 2022

What is Religious Education?

“Religious education has an important place in the curriculum of all schools. It provides a space for learning about people, about cultures and faiths and also relationships, tolerance, understanding and appreciation of others’ beliefs and values.” (The Pan-Berkshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2018-2023)

“Alongside the subject’s contribution to pupils’ mental, cognitive and linguistic development, RE offers distinctive opportunities to promote pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.” (National Association of Teachers of Religious Education)

Religious Education is learning about and from different religions, including humanism, and world views to better understand the society and world that we all live in to promote understanding, tolerance and acceptance.

What does Religious Education look like at Walter Infant School and Nursery?

At Walter Infant School and Nursery, we use Discovery RE as our scheme of learning; this is an approach that encourages children to be enquirers through discussion-based lessons. Discovery RE closely links to our PSRHE scheme, Jigsaw. Every half-term the children in each year group are presented with a ‘big question’ which builds the foundations for their learning. RE is taught in an age-appropriate way, assisted by a class ‘wise owl.’ The children recognise RE as a time for demonstrating respect, empathy and kindness towards others, as well as building their tolerance for different views. RE encourages children to consider our school values and put them into practice.

Intent:

As part of our ‘Big Curriculum for Little People’, we believe that it is important for all our children to learn from and about religion, to help them to understand the world around them. We guide our children to develop the skill of open-mindedness towards others with different faiths and beliefs and encourage the children to develop their sense of identity and belonging through our age-appropriate discussions.

Implementation:

Religious Education Statement for Walter Infant School and Nursery 2021 2022

Walter Infant School and Nursery delivers RE in line with the Pan-Berkshire Agreed Syllabus for Religion Education 2018-2023. By following Discovery RE, we can ensure that our children have access to learn about a range of religions, having the confidence to discuss their thoughts and ideas with their class.

Our 'Big Questions' as produced by Discovery RE are as follows:

Overview Years F1/2 to Year 6						
	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
	Theme: Special People Key Question: What makes people special? Religions: Christianity, Judaism	Theme: Christmas Concept: Incarnation Key Question: What is Christmas? Religion: Christianity	Theme: Celebrations Key Question: How do people celebrate? Religions: Hinduism	Theme: Easter Concept: Salvation Key Question: What is Easter? Religion: Christianity	Theme: Stories Key Question: What can we learn from stories? Religions: Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism	Theme: Special Places Key Question: What makes places special? Religions: Christianity, Islam, Judaism
	Theme: Creation Story Concept: God/Creation Key Question: Does God want Christians to look after the world? Religion: Christianity	Theme: Christmas Concept: Incarnation Key Question: What gifts might Christians in my town have given Jesus if he had been born here rather than in Bethlehem? Religion: Christianity	Theme: Jesus as a friend Concept: Incarnation Key Question: Was it always easy for Jesus to show friendship? Religion: Christianity	Theme: Easter - Palm Sunday Concept: Salvation Key Question: Why was Jesus welcomed like a king or celebrity by the crowds on Palm Sunday? Religion: Christianity	Theme: Shabbat Key Question: Is Shabbat important to Jewish children? Religion: Judaism	Theme: Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur Key Question: Are Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur important to Jewish children? Religion: Judaism
There is an additional optional Judaism enquiry at the end of the Year 1 section: Does celebrating Chanukah make Jewish children feel closer to God?						
	Theme: What did Jesus teach? Key Question: Is it possible to be kind to everyone all of the time? Religion: Christianity	Theme: Christmas - Jesus as gift from God Concept: Incarnation Key Question: Why do Christians believe God gave Jesus to the world? Religion: Christianity	Theme: Passover Key Question: How important is it for Jewish people to do what God asks them to do? Religion: Judaism Theme: Prayer at home Key Question: Does praying at regular intervals help a Muslim in his/her everyday life? Religion: Islam	Theme: Easter - Resurrection Concept: Salvation Key Question: How important is it to Christians that Jesus came back to life after His crucifixion? Religion: Christianity	Theme: The Covenant Key Question: How special is the relationship Jews have with God? Religion: Judaism Theme: Community and Belonging Key Question: Does going to a Mosque give Muslims a sense of belonging? Religion: Islam	Theme: Rites of Passage and good works Key Question: What is the best way for a Jew to show commitment to God? Religion: Judaism Theme: Hajj Key Question: Does completing Hajj make a person a better Muslim? Religion: Islam

Impact:

The children at our school can make links between their own lives and the lives of others within our school community and the wider world. They are well-informed about the various religions and cultures of their peers and can recognise when their peers are celebrating a religious festival. The cultures of our families are celebrated as part of our curriculum and our children can express their learning experiences.

Parents / Carers have the right to withdraw their child(ren) from Religious Education; this was first granted in 1944. If you have any concerns or questions regarding this, please contact Mrs Judy Wheeler (Headteacher) on head@walter.wokingham.sch.uk.