RE Curriculum Intent

Whole School Vision Statement

Bywell is an inclusive church school where the Christian ethos encourages thoughtfulness and humanity. We learn and grow together, aiming high and striving to be the best we can. In our safe, friendly and happy environment, all members of the school community are valued and respected. Our ethos is underpinned through the teachings of the Parable of The Mustard Seed. (Matthew 13:31-32) (Mark 4:31-32) (Luke 13:18-19)

Subject Intent

At Bywell Junior School, we believe that it is important for all our pupils to learn from and about religion, so that they can understand the world around them. The aim of Religious Education in our school 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 behaviour, develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues and enhance their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Religious Education is taught throughout the school in such a way as to reflect the overall aims and values of our school, making links to Friendship, Justice, Compassion, Peace and Endurance through the different religions taught.

It plays an important role, along with all other curriculum areas, particularly PSHCE, in promoting social awareness and understanding in our children. We encourage our pupils to ask questions about the world and to reflect on their own beliefs, values and experiences. RE at Bywell promotes the values and attitudes necessary for citizenship in a multi-faith society through developing understanding of, respect for, and dialogue with people of different beliefs, practices, races and cultures.

Our curriculum is designed to encourage creativity, imagination, enquiry, debate, discussion and independence.

Subject Implementation

- R.E is taught for an hour every week and as a school, we follow the Kirklees Agreed syllabus.
- Currently, whole school Collective Worship takes place on a Monday morning at 9.00 am. On a Friday morning, this is alternated with a celebration assembly every fortnight. On a day when there is no Whole school Collective Worship, a class Collective Worship will take place instead.
- We celebrate inter faith week, providing children with the opportunity to immerse themselves in different religions. As well as this, we have a close working relationship with Reverend Mark Umpleby who has visited and lead acts of collective worship and worked with the children to hear their voice about R.E.
- We visit the Church for a Christmas Christingle service and the year 5 children also visit the church for Rewind to Easter and Rewind to Christmas. School continues to organise visits to different places of worship to enhance the learning experience for children as well as organising visits from different faith leaders to work with children and lead collective worship.
- This year we will be further enhancing our Collective worship group, with a representative from each class. This group will help support Collective Worship with new ideas to further enhance our Collective Worship experience. This will also include training for staff to build confidence and provide further ideas to lead effective class collective worship.
- A range of activities are planned for lessons which demonstrate different skills and are engaging whilst allowing an in depth look at different religious beliefs. Activities allow children to demonstrate their understanding of the topic and deepen children's knowledge. Opportunities for Big Questions are planned to discuss current topics as well as religious elements providing children with a chance to explore and discuss their own views and those of others.
- Progression and the coverage of religions is clear in books and planning. Covering different religions across the years will allow children to draw similarities between religions and reflect upon their own beliefs.
- We organise pupil voice questionnaires to find out views of children about R.E and how they would like to further develop it.

RE Impact

What has been achieved in the subject in 2021/22 - include pupil voice & assessment either qualitative

or quantitative?

- A book scrutiny took place across the school with a focus on coverage to ensure everyone was accurately using the Kirklees Agreed syllabus. One of the focus was to ensure there was an opportunity for a big question at the end of each unit. This wasn't consistent across all year groups so staff were reminded about the expectations. Overall, the books looked great, with a range of activities and children taking pride in their work.
- Class prayer books were created. Parents were involved in helping their child write a prayer for the class prayer book based on one of our school core values. The prayers were then put together to create a prayer book for each class which is placed in the reflection corner. These prayers are read at the end of class collective worship.
- Class collective worship- Teachers were given selected Bible stories to teach during their class collective stories to read and discuss with their class. They were provided with a script which supported them in setting the tone for their collective worship aswell as key discussion points for the bible stories.
- Class reflection areas were also visited to ensure consistency. A checklist was then created and given to teachers to ensure all classes had the same items in their reflection corners. Any missing items were then ordered and handed out.
- Interfaith week was celebrated in school. Each class was given a different religion to study across the week which then culminated in a presentation assembly at the end of the week where children from each class shared their learning with the rest of the school. Rev Mark Umpleby also led a whole school collective worship regarding interfaith week and its importance.
- An overview for teaching about Christmas was given out with different lines of enquiry for each year group. This ensured that there was clear progression across the school and teachers were not repeating the same objectives in all year groups. All teachers delivered these sessions in the weeks leading upto Christmas.
- Every year, for Christmas, we take part in a charity initiative and this is usually Operation Christmas child. Hover, this year we have looked at the needs of the local community and instead chosen to support the local foodbank- Fusion foodbank. Parents were asked to donate items of food towards the foodbank. This had a great turnout and we were able to support a local cause.
- Children in year 5 walked to Long causeway church to take part in Christmas activates for Rewind to Christmas. They loved taking part and behaved impeccably.
- The year 5 Christmas concert was planned to take place at St Pauls' church aswell as some of our children taking part in a community Christingle service where our choir was going to perform. Unfortunately, both of these had to be cancelled due to the heating in the church breaking down. The year 6 concert was rescheduled for a different day and instead took place in school.
- A Christingle service was also booked for our school to take part in which would have taken place at St Paul's church. This unfortunately also had to be cancelled. The children were still able to make the Christingles and learn all about the meaning behind them.

Next steps for 2022/23

- Continue to embed consistency in planning for RE lessons.
- Continue to establish strong links with St Paul's Church and Rev Mark Umpleby.
- Arrange for Rev Mark to lead a pupil voice discussion with some children to collect a RE voice.
- Support more local causes through school.
- Further embed our Collective worship representatives to give them a more defined role.

March 2023 update

- A book scrutiny was undertaken using a sample of work across the school. Findings showed there were a range of tasks planned for children, children took pride in their work, there were examples of some big questions, tasks were pertinent to the learning objective, teachers were following the Kirklees syllabus to plan the lessons and there was evidence of differentiation in some year groups.
  Some areas of focus: each year must begin with the mustard seed lesson and this must be revisited throughout the year. Although there was evidence of big questions, this was not consistent across the school; teachers must ensure that they plan one big question for each unit. There was evidence of work carried out during Interfaith week however, this was not consistent; teachers must ensure there is evidence in books for this. This can be via pictures. Finally, there should be more consistent differentiation for all abilities. Feedback will be shared during staff meeting.
- Planning for Easter has been shared with all teachers during staff meeting. The final few RE lessons before the Easter break must be focused on Easter. These have been differentiated across the school therefore enabling progression and no repetition.
- I have updated the Collective Worship themes for Summer 2023.
- I have arranged for Reverend Mark Umpelby to lead an act of Collective Worship based on Lent on the 21st March.
- I have contacted the Longcauseway Church regarding the 'Fast Forward to Easter' programme that runs every year however, they will not be running it this year. They will contact us once this is back up and running.
- I have worked with the RE lead for the handover of the subject and began collecting evidence for my folder.
- I have booked onto a course for Pupils Leading Collective Worship. This has been re-scheduled from a previous cancellation.
- A list of 'Big Questions' have been collected from each year group. These questions will be assessed and reviewed to see if they provide the impact that they are intended to have.
- I will be distributing a Spring Fair flyer, from Longcauseway Church, to all parents for an Easter event which will be held by the church. The day will consist of various activities, raffle, competitions and stalls. The community is invited to attend and take part.

July 2023 update

- A Ramadan club was organised for the children who were fasting in each year group. A different member of staff planned creative activities for the children to take part in. Children had the choice of attending and all opted to attend.
- We organised a Bywell Iftaar Party. As this was the first time that we held this event, we invited staff members and their families to take part in the traditional opening of the fast as the Bywell community. This had a really big uptake and many people attended and enjoyed the evening. The invitation was extended to Rev. Mark who unfortunately was unable to attend.
- I accessed a virtual course 'Pupils Leading Collective Worship'. This was an informative course which gave useful advice on how we can develop pupil leaders. We looked at the different steps that need to be taken in order to develop such leaders. The idea of children seeing themselves as leaders leading collective worship can be transformational.
- I undertook a classroom reflection area checklist to ensure it was up to date and met the requirements that we had agreed to as a school. Any items that were missing were reported to me and were ordered. All reflection areas were inviting and children were able to explain where they were and why they were used.
- Our new diocese advisor is Helen Lever. She undertook a visit which involved a learning walk, meeting the children and looking at reflection areas/well-being walls.
- I made contact with our new Rev. Jonathan Bish. He has conducted two collective worships so far. The first one centered on the theme of identity, while the second focused on change, which coincided nicely with the transitioning period. Additionally, the new reverend took a learning walk around school.

Next steps 2023/24

- Evaluate Lesson 1 of RE (The Parable of the Mustard Seed) and ensure clear progression is shown through the year groups.
- Ensure prayer books are completed by the first week and ready to use for class collective worship.

- Recruit class collective worship leaders.
- Organise collective worship sessions led by Rev. Jonathan, aiming to schedule them once every half term.
- Support new members of staff with RE syllabus and give guidance for topics for class collective worship sessions.