



EXPLORING RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Intent • Implementation • Impact

Pembridge is a school where we encourage everyone to be **inspired** through faith in God and to live by Christian values so that our **teaching and learning** is of the highest quality, our whole community **flourishes** and we reflect all that is worthy of **praise**.

INTENT	How does RE inspire our children?	Religious Education (RE) gives an opportunity ‘to explore what people believe and what difference this makes to how they live, so that pupils can gain the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to handle questions raised by religion and belief, reflecting on their own ideas and ways of living’ (Herefordshire Syllabus 2020). It provides a safe place in which to ask challenging questions about meaning and purpose in life, beliefs about God, ultimate reality, issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human. We use RE to explore religions and world views in local, national and global contexts, considering different answers to these questions. RE allows our children to weigh up the value of wisdom from different sources, to develop and express their insights in response and to agree or disagree respectfully. It equips our children with a bank of knowledge enabling them to develop their own ideas, values and identities. They learn to value positive dialogue, articulate their own beliefs, ideas and experiences coherently while respecting the right of others to differ.	
IMPLEMENTATION	How is our teaching and learning in RE organised?	RE is taught weekly for about an hour in all classes, though we have the creative flexibility to have RE days or weeks when appropriate, especially when this can bring in our local community to help. We follow the Herefordshire RE Syllabus (2020) and have a two-year rolling programme of half-termly units which are led by key thematic questions such as: ‘Who do Christians say made the world?’ in KS1 to ‘Creation and science: conflicting or complementary?’ in Year 6. Understanding Christianity is a planning resource which helps us teach key Christian concepts in a distinct way through the school and is now dovetailed with the new Syllabus. We value the opportunities to encourage our children to respond to learning <i>about</i> religions and world views by showing how they learn <i>from</i> this knowledge through art, poetry, drama as well as writing and speaking. There are wider links with RE across the curriculum and the ways children articulate their behaviours; for example, understanding in RE is also shown by the way our children demonstrate the values we explore in school (such as trust, hope and peace), by the ways they express their personal beliefs and ideas in discussion, and also how they actively respond to local and wider world issues.	
IMPACT	How does RE help our children to flourish and be worthy of praise?	There are numerous ways in which our children demonstrate that our RE curriculum is effective. The quality of responses written in their RE books is one way; children are supported to use phrases which help them explain and develop ideas further. We aim for their writing to sit alongside the expectations we have for writing in English. Children can show their thoughts in different non-written ways which can be very personal for each individual. Capturing this can be through photos or a brief written observation in feedback. Most children will reach what is expected of them according to the Hereford Syllabus (2020) but a few may just be emerging at that stage and others, exceeding. The depth of response to matters of faith, religion and world views is not something that can easily be measured but it is always valued and may also be more evident in the way children behave. More able children in RE may demonstrate the links between their own actions and the reasons why other people of faith, or no faith, act in response to situations in society and the world. Quite often, it is the wider community looking in who see just how our children are worthy of praise. Whilst RE cannot be measured solely by the success of our ethos, we celebrate the links that can be made.	