

## Religious Education at St Erth Primary School



### INTENT

The principal aim of religious education is 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 (Cornwall Agreed Syllabus 2020 - 2025).

At St Erth School, our RE curriculum follows the Cornwall Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education in ensuring that all pupils are able to **make sense of a range of religious and non-religious beliefs** so that they can **understand the impact** and significance of religious and non-religious beliefs and **make connections** between religious and non-religious beliefs, concepts practices and ideas studied.

As the world appears to become ever more complex and challenging, it is important that pupils can be prepared for the world they will enter when they leave school. We want our pupils to have the opportunity to develop their knowledge and understanding of different religions and to learn that there are those who do not hold religious beliefs and have their own philosophical perspectives. We are very conscious that we are situated in an area which is not culturally diverse and we place great importance on enabling pupils to develop respect for, and sensitivity to, those whose faiths and beliefs are different from their own. Through this approach our children learn how to become a respectful, global citizen.

### IMPLEMENTATION

At St Erth Primary School, we teach RE by meeting the requirements of the Cornwall Agreed Syllabus, supported by further teaching from Understanding Christianity.

We develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of Christians in all year groups.

Within 'Understanding Christianity', there are two focuses that we work on. One of these is learning about Christianity itself and 'understanding the text'. The other is digging deeper to 'understand the impact' of the text and 'make connections' between this, a Christian's beliefs and the way in which they live their lives. The Understanding Christianity part of the syllabus works on a spiral curriculum, building knowledge and skills over the course of Year R-6. The strands of RE learning comprise several themes: God, Creation, Fall, People of God, Incarnation, Gospel, Salvation, Kingdom of God. Pupils explore the life, teaching, death and resurrection of Jesus, within this wider historical and theological context. Please see the attached document below that demonstrates progression within this.

Key Stage 1 children also learn about Islam and Judaism whilst Key Stage 2 children learn about Islam, Hinduism and Judaism. In the EYFS, RE thinks about special people, places, stories and events.

Within the teaching of other faiths and beliefs, there are two focuses. One of these is the 'learning about' a religion, where children develop knowledge of the people who are important to these religions, their history, where people worship and how their beliefs affect the way they live. The other focus is 'learning from' a religion. This is where children are encouraged to reflect on how they can learn from other people's beliefs.

RE is mostly taught as a discrete subject in weekly sessions and is sometimes "blocked". The syllabus is based on providing the opportunity for children to revisit and build on their prior knowledge of the different beliefs and practices taught across the school. Work is recorded in a variety of ways to best suit the learning and we try to make RE memorable and engaging for our pupils.

Teaching in RE is open and objective; it does not seek to urge religious beliefs on young people, nor compromise the integrity of their own religious position by promoting one tradition over another. We simply want children to learn from different religions, beliefs, values and traditions while exploring their own beliefs and questions of meaning and we promote a positive attitude towards everyone, respecting their right to hold different beliefs from our own.

Collective Worship, alongside RE, contributes to our informed, reflective, compassionate and caring ethos. Assemblies are held across Key Stages 1 and 2 which provide pupils with opportunities for reflection. Assemblies are led by the local Open the Book team who perform stories from the Bible and we welcome visitors to lead special events such as our Harvest Festival or to our Advent Service and from other faiths, and enhance our curriculum using the rich culture of our local area including visits to places of worship.

Our curriculum is fully inclusive and we ensure all children have the same entitlement to a broad curriculum by making adaptations where needed.

## **IMPACT**

The children at St Erth Primary School enjoy learning about other religions and why people choose, or choose not to follow a religion. Through their R.E. learning, the children are able to make links between their own lives and those of others in their community and in the wider world.