Intent

*‘RE explores big questions about life, in order to find out what people believe and what difference this makes to how they live, so that pupils can make sense of religion and worldviews, reflecting on their own ideas and ways of living.’*

RE in The Acorn Federation is centred around our Christian values. At both schools we work with our parish church and community to develop our children’s social, moral and cultural understanding of the world; this enables them to become good citizens later in life.

We follow the aims of the Derbyshire and Derby City Syllabus for RE, which has been designed for the religious diversity of this area. These are:

• To ensure that every pupil’s statutory entitlement to RE is met, irrespective of their faith or belief, and within this to encourage pupils to explore questions of spirituality, identity, ethics, discrimination and prejudice.

• To enable pupils to develop religious literacy and conceptual understanding of what it means to be a person of faith or no faith.

• To encourage pupils to articulate their own ideas and experience of religion, belief and spirituality.

• To encourage all pupils and teachers to experience RE as an exciting subject that feeds into an understanding of what it means to live in Derbyshire and Derby City and our wider world communities and to promote harmony and good community relations.

• To encourage teachers to produce RE lessons that are challenging, inspiring and engaging to everyone.

• To assist pupils to engage critically with ideas and understanding of religion and belief systems, given the nature of our society, its speed of change and growing social media influences. RE studies how religions and world views shape and are shaped by the societies in which pupils live, promoting deepening understanding of those belief systems.

• To promote interactive, creative and experiential learning that promotes social and ethnic accord alongside the endorsement of fundamental British Values, so that schools will be supported in visiting places of worship, community meeting places and communicating with different social groups across the local community.

Implementation

Our topics have been planned based on best practice from the Derbyshire Agreed Syllabus adapted for our mixed-age schools. This practice is complemented by Understanding Christianity resources which are designed to strengthen the teaching of Christianity within schools.

Our curriculum is designed to focus on individual religions, combined with thematic units drawing on different and diverse religions. This enables children to progressively contrast, compare and analyse faiths. The progressive curriculum covers Christian, Jewish, Hindu and Muslim faiths and people. Children also study non-religious beliefs. Our children visit places of worship and meet people of faith from different communities, often in partnership with the Open Centre.

Our children use skills such as engaging in discussion of issues, exploring differences, tolerating and understanding others. They are encouraged to learn and enquire into the fundamental questions of life, exploring both their own values and the views of others. Our children develop self-awareness and a tolerance for others in a diverse world, being encouraged to appreciate different religions, beliefs, viewpoints and cultures and develop their own views through enquiry, questioning and investigation.