

Religious Education: Intent, Implementation and Impact

If we want a more peaceful and harmonious future for our children and young people, we must teach them to understand the ways of life, beliefs and practices of people who are different to us, recognising all that we have in common whilst celebrating the diversity found in each distinctive tradition. They must also feel safe and secure to explore their own faith and ideas, and where these fit within the local, national and international contexts of today's world.

Camden's Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education; Living Difference III, recognises that Camden is a richly diverse area of Central London. The aim is to provide opportunities for pupils to explore their own faith as well as the faiths of their classmates, neighbours and communities.

Living Difference III divides concepts into three groups:

A: Concepts common to all people

These include belonging, celebration, remembering, justice and compassion.

B: Concepts shared by many religions

These include God, symbolism, that which is sacred or holy, stewardship and martyrdom.

C: Concepts distinctive to particular religions

These include Trinity, Torah, The Bible, The Qur'an and The 5 Ks.

In Nursery, children begin to learn about faith through the themes of celebrations, belonging and what it means to care for others. They also learn about the Christmas story and new life symbols of springtime and Easter.

The Living Difference III programme of study revisits celebrations, signs and symbols and special places and people throughout Key Stages One and Two, with increasing complexity.

World views are also explored. Easy Questions and Difficult Answers ends the Summer term in Year 2, giving scope for the pupils to ask and answer questions and explore ideas through oracy-based activities. Discussion provides pupils with the opportunity to ask and answer questions and in doing so, apply the Building Learning Power disciplines of reciprocity and reflectiveness.

Through Key Stage 2, pupils explore how ideas about God are linked to stories in sacred texts and how their rules and laws influence actions in everyday life. They learn about how faith is expressed in music, art and drama and consider how humans exercise responsibility for the environment through their beliefs and practices.

We aim to prepare pupils for life strengthened and supported from within their faith community, while recognising their place as part of a wider and pluralist society.