

Our School Vision

At Ilstington C of E School, we create a community where aspiration, inspiration, and motivation flourish — all grounded in love and respect. Rooted in our Christian values, we aspire for every child to become the person God created them to be, reaching their fullest potential. We inspire our children to explore their unique gifts and passions, nurturing a lifelong love of learning and curiosity about the world. We motivate our children through a rich, inclusive, and creative curriculum, developing confident, compassionate, and resilient individuals who are prepared to make a positive difference in our school, our community, and the wider world. We believe that a supportive, open, and inclusive environment is key to nurturing each child's spiritual exploration and growth.

Love is at the heart of all we do. It guides our relationships, shapes our actions, and inspires a culture of kindness, understanding, and mutual respect. Together, we strive to ensure that every member of our school community feels valued, supported, and loved.

Our school's Christian values which feed into this are:

- Compassion
- Friendship
- Honesty
- Kindness
- Resilience
- Respect

Our Christian Ethos is rooted in the letter from Paul to the Corinthians where he encouraged the followers to let love be the guiding principle for their actions and words. "Let all that you do be done in love," 1 Corinthians 16:14.

Jesus's teaching is the foundation of all that we do. By following Jesus's example, we learn how to live in a way that reflects His truth and love. His words, "Let all that you do be done in love," call us to place love at the heart of every action, decision and relationship.

This guiding principle shapes not only how we think and act as individuals, but also how we live and learn together as a community. It challenges us to act with compassion, integrity and respect, and to recognise the value and dignity of every person. In striving to live out this teaching, we are continually encouraged to grow, to flourish and to become the best possible version of ourselves, rooted in faith and strengthened by love.

Aim of RE and Worldviews

RE is an exciting forum for the children to feel engaged, inspired and challenged. Through RE, we aim to prepare our children to become global citizens who can discern and articulate their own informed worldviews with empathy and compassion. We want them to develop their capacity to reflect on personal ideas and beliefs and begin to understand where this sits in relation to other worldviews. We feel passionate about delivering an RE curriculum which promotes the virtues of respect and empathy, which are so important in our diverse society. It fosters civilised debate and reasoned argument, and through developing this religious literacy, ultimately helps our children to understand the place of religion and belief in the modern world.

Delivery

Ilslington C of E Primary is part of the Link Academy Trust (previously a Voluntary Controlled school) and therefore the provision of RE must be in accordance with the Trust Deed of the academy. It meets the expectations set out by the 'The Statement of Entitlement' in the *Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools* (SIAMS) Evaluation Schedule. In particular, Christianity forms 50% of the taught curriculum and 5%-10% of curriculum time is set aside for the teaching of RE. This is approx. one hour per week, or in blocked time as appropriate. The time allocated for RE will be separate from time given to Collective Worship.

RE and Worldviews has an important part to play as part of a broad, balanced, and coherent curriculum to which all pupils are entitled. High quality learning experiences are designed and provided by careful planning through the Devon and Torbay Agreed Syllabus 2024-29, using Understanding Christianity and RE Today units.

In accordance with the structure of the locally agreed syllabus:

At KS1 pupils study Christianity as well as Judaism and Islam

At KS2 pupils study Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism and non-religious worldviews e.g. Humanism

Consideration of other religions and non-religious worldviews can occur at any stage as appropriate to our school context.

Key Skills in RE and Worldviews

RE is more than just developing children's knowledge and understanding. It seeks to develop children's skills in:

- Investigation/enquiry (about the meaning and purpose of life, beliefs, the self, issues of right and wrong, and what it means to be human).
- Communication (sharing their ideas and those within religions and beliefs in a lively, informed way including different styles of writing, oral contributions and the use of IT).
- Interpretation (recognising and talking about religious symbols, stories and sacred texts).
- Analysis and evaluation (making connections, reflecting on and developing their own worldviews and ideas, recognising the beliefs of others and the impact of these).

Key Attitudes in RE and Worldviews

As with skills, RE has a number of key attitudes it seeks to promote. These include self-esteem (so that every child feels valued and significant), respect (including being sensitive to the beliefs, feelings and values of others), open-mindedness (being willing to learn and gain new understanding) and appreciation and wonder (developing children's imagination and curiosity).

The contribution RE and Worldviews makes to other curriculum areas

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development:

Section 78 (1) of the 2002 Education Act states that all pupils should follow a balanced and broadly based curriculum which 'promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, social, mental and physical development of pupils and of society, and prepares pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life'. Learning about religions and beliefs, through the distinct knowledge, understanding and skills contained in RE within a broad-based curriculum, is essential to achieving these aims. Exploring the concepts of religion and belief and their roles in the spiritual, moral and cultural lives of people in a diverse society, helps individuals develop moral awareness and social understanding.

Preparing pupils for life in modern Britain:

RE makes an important contribution to a school's duty to prepare pupils for life in modern Britain and to combat extremism, promoting British values. It provides a key context to develop young people's understanding and appreciation of diversity, to hold difficult conversations about religion and belief and to give pupils the skills to challenge racism and extremism. Effective RE will promote social cohesion.

Personal Development:

RE encourages pupils' personal development; it enables pupils to disagree respectfully and engage in handling and applying their learning to living. It gives opportunities for pupils to make connections between the ideas studied, with the world around them and with their own developing personal worldviews.

Rights of Withdrawal

We firmly believe that RE is an important subject in children's learning. We fully recognise the legal right of parents to withdraw their children from all or any part of RE and Worldviews on the grounds of conscience. We do encourage parents to contact the Headteacher if they have any concerns about RE provision and practice at the school.

Approaches to teaching and learning in RE and Worldviews

- Visiting local places of worship and virtual tours of other religious buildings.
- Use of visitors to share their faith/lived experience – demonstrating diversity.
- Key question to lead each unit, promoting enquiry and investigation.
- Exploring a variety of religious texts through a theological lens.
- Using art, music, dance and drama/role play.
- Analysis of sociological census and survey data.
- Children experiencing times of quiet reflection and stillness to develop their own thoughts, ideas and spirituality.
- Using story, pictures and photographs.
- Collective recording through class scrapbooks/Sway.
- Using artefacts to help children develop their understanding of religious beliefs and forms of expression.
- Discussing philosophical questions to develop critical thinking skills.
- Use of IT to inform, for independent research and creation of presentations.

Assessment

In line with the school policy on assessment and recording it is expected that each teacher will be responsible for the regular assessment of his or her pupils through marking work set. We currently monitor children's progress each half term. This is informed through discussion, children's books and AFL pieces. The evidence gathered will be used by the class teacher to ensure that pupil's learning is appropriately scaffolded to support progress for SEND pupils or challenging enough to lead those to greater depth.

The RE subject leader is responsible for keeping an overview of the standard of children's work and for the quality of teaching. The RE Lead/AH will monitor RE within the school through analysis of assessment data, to ensure expectations and outcomes in RE match those in English for instance.

The work of the subject leader also involves supporting colleagues, being informed about current developments and providing a strategic lead and direction for the subject in the school.