



Religious Education (R.E.) at Harvills Hawthorn

Intention

The teaching of R.E. at Harvills Hawthorn, in line with the curriculum, aims to enrich a child's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. We believe that R.E. not only develops a child's being but also their thought processes, ability to make links and equips them with the confidence to debate and/or discuss key topics.

We aim to provide a breadth of knowledge to prepare children for those puzzling questions and to heighten their empathy skills. We will deliver these opportunities in engaging and challenging ways.

Our overall approach to teaching R.E. is based upon respect. We understand that we do not all hold the same beliefs or opinions, and it is important that we teach the children to be open-minded, sensitive to teach others and understand that we are all different.

Implementation

At Harvills Hawthorn Primary School, we pride ourselves on the consistent approach to teaching and learning that can be observed across all phases of school. This is achieved through our commitment to cutting edge, research-based CPD in addition to quality-first teaching on a daily basis. Expectations of staff and pupils are high, resulting in good or outstanding progress in all phases. There is a universal understanding of what great teaching, learning and assessment should entail. These strategies are consistently used throughout school and it is the expectation of leadership that all lessons will include a variety of these to enable learners to reach their full potential. Active learning is essential in all aspects of the lesson. All staff use the same terminology so that learners develop a knowledge and understanding of the different ways they learn.

At Harvills, we believe great teaching, learning and assessment must include the following:

- Understanding the Content
- Creating a Supportive Environment
- Maximising Opportunities to Learn
- Activating Hard Thinking (building ratio)

Each lesson begins with 'Rapid Retrieval' designed to improve children's retrieval skills. The purpose of this is to revisit prior learning in order to improve long term



memory. Teachers ensure that Rapid Retrieval includes both recent learning and learning from previous topics.

We are working hard to promote our pupils' English and ensure that they all achieve to the very best of their ability. Pupils are encouraged to read widely and often. English is fundamental to all subjects. Consequently, we believe that all stakeholders have a role to play in supporting and developing our pupils' English skills to ensure they can communicate effectively in today's society. All children are expected to follow our school's non-negotiables for presentation. This includes a focus on learning to write in the cursive script.

R.E. is taught in all year groups across the school and is allocated regular teaching time not less than that identified in the table below:

4-5s	36 hours of RE (e.g. 50 minutes a week or some short sessions implemented through continuous provision)
5-7s:	36 hours of tuition per year (e.g. an hour a week, or less than an hour a week plus a series of RE days)
7-11s:	45 hours of tuition per year (e.g. an hour a week, or less than an hour a week plus a series of RE days or weeks amounting to 45+ hours of RE)

Our RE Curriculum for Years 1-6 is based upon the Sandwell Agreed Syllabus which has been provided by SACRE.

In order to meet the OFSTED requirements for Early Years, the Discovery RE Curriculum is implemented.

At Harvills Hawthorn we cover principal religions across all year groups: Christianity, Islam, Sikhism, Hinduism and Judaism. We also focus on non-religious Humanism during Years 3 and 5.

To enhance children's learning, we draw upon the children's own experiences of religion, whether this be through celebrations, visiting places of worship or learning about it outside of school. Having the children direct and develop learning allows their self-esteem and confidence to grow. We teach the children through reading well known stories, fables and faith texts.

R.E. incorporates the Harvills Hawthorn way of learning. We ensure that all children are challenged, collaborative learning techniques are utilised and questioning is both teacher and child led. We also provide children with the opportunity to visit local places of worship and to experience Marsh Lane Church assemblies.

Impact

Our school vision is "To be the very best that we can be." The teaching of R.E. supports our vision as we hope that by providing the children with the opportunity to celebrate themselves and equip them with a wealth of knowledge, skills and



understanding it will have a positive impact in all areas of their learning. R.E. provides the children with the opportunity to interpret, understand, make connections, explore and reflect.