

Religious Education Policy

December 2022

Oakley CE Junior School



Religious Education is an implicit part of the daily life of Oakley Junior School. Children are given the opportunity to examine this through project work in the classroom, through the worship display board and on some occasions can be reflected in collective worship.

As Oakley Junior School is a voluntary controlled school, RE follows the legal requirements of the LEA's Agreed Syllabus, *Living Difference IV* (2022), and will be amalgamating this with resources from the Church Of England's *Understanding Christianity* publication. This allows for children to understand the big story of the Christian Bible and to explore life's big questions, considering the part the children can make to our world.

Aims

Religious Education should foster in pupils a reflective approach to living. To enquire and develop their knowledge and understanding and to enable and enrich this process through their study of living faiths, acknowledging the fact that religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian and taking account of the other principle religions represented in this country. Religious Education should support their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development as well as to foster a mutual understanding between pupils and staff of differing religious and cultural backgrounds.

Planning/coverage

To ensure continuity and progression, Christianity is planned using the Living Difference IV syllabus using the planning sheets and booklets, where available, ensuring that two thirds of the themes

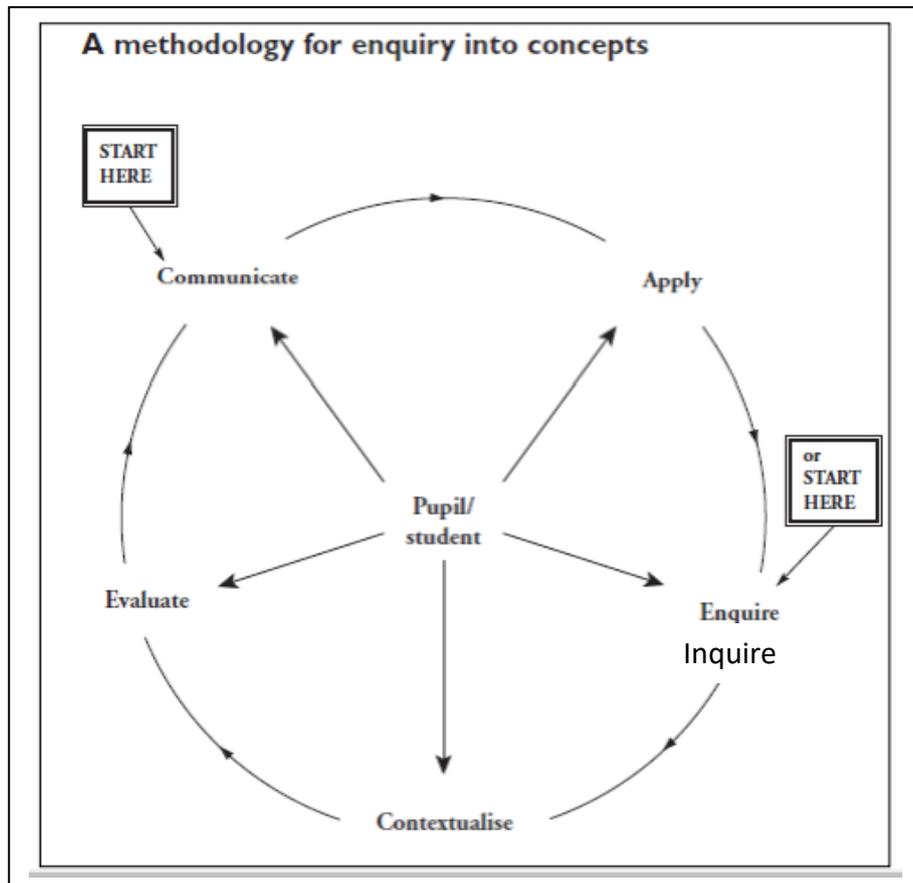
covered are Christian. In Lower School, pupils also have an introduction to Judaism and Islam. In Upper School, pupils further develop their understanding of Judaism and Islam. The recommendation is that 45 hours per school year should be devoted to the teaching of Religious Education. This equates to 7.5 hours per half term. RE is taught in blocked units across a dedicated 'Concept' week.

The medium term plans developed by the RE co-ordinator provide the coverage, breadth and balance required by the Agreed Syllabus. Class teachers work alongside the RE co-ordinator to share ideas and resources and also to ensure that assessment is in place to monitor children's progression and to inform planning at the mid-term and short-term stages.

Parents are kept informed about which areas of RE are being studied. These are clearly on termly overviews sent to parents.

Teaching and learning

Teaching and learning in RE is in line with the school's teaching and learning policy. Pupils are involved in quiet reflection, listening to stories, expressing themselves through discussion, research, writing, creative arts, drama etc. They also explore religious artefacts, speak to visitors and make visits to places of worship. There are also close links already established with the local church and community. The Rector of St Leonard's Church joins RE lessons each concept week throughout the school in order to aid the teachers in their delivery of the subject. RE is a philosophical enquiry, based upon the learners' own perceptions and understandings of each concept which should remain fluid and develop as the learners' progress through the cycle of learning (see diagram below for the learning cycle). The *Living Difference IV* syllabus is used to guide concept driven learning, encouraging children to begin from their own personal point of view and how other religions would view these ideas.



Resources

There is in place a central resource area to help support the schemes of work which are taught. Many of the units covered have planning and resource booklets to aid the teachers. Literacy co-ordinators help to establish links with RE. Resources are regularly updated and added to.

Withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from RE lessons. Pupils who are withdrawn are given suitable alternative activities.