



**It wasn't like this
when I was at
school!**

**A parents/carers' guide to RE
in Devon primary schools**

Introduction

Welcome to this guide on RE in Devon schools. The guide is designed to highlight the key skills, knowledge and understanding which RE is seeking to develop. The guide also highlights the key attitudes that RE is committed to developing.

Aims of RE

RE in Devon schools aims to:

- Develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of Christianity, other principal religions (Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism) and other views such as Humanism
- Encourage a reflective approach to living where pupils develop their own views, beliefs and ideas.
- Help pupils consider important questions of meaning such as good and evil, right and wrong, beliefs about God and what it means to be human.

Religious education does not try to make pupils religious nor does it seek to persuade or convert pupils to a particular belief.

In Devon, RE has two attainment targets

AT1 - Learning about Religion

AT2 - Learning from Religion

In Attainment Target 1, pupils consider religious beliefs and teachings, practices and ways of life, and the different ways people express their beliefs.

In Attainment Target 2, pupils consider issues of identity and belonging (who and what matters to them), questions of meaning (e.g. what do people believe about life after death, what makes human beings special) and values and commitments (who and what do pupils value, what values exist in religion and other belief systems).

Developing skills in RE

While knowledge and understanding form an important part of RE, so too do key skills. RE in Devon encourages all pupils to develop the following skills:-

Reflection

- Exploring feelings, beliefs and values
- Using imagination to develop their own ideas
- Sharing their own ideas with others.

Enquiry and Investigation

- Finding out about key beliefs, practices and forms of expression
- Organising learning in RE, gathering evidence about religions from different sources.

Interpretation

- Considering how and why religions and belief systems express themselves in different ways
- Developing their own abilities in the creative and expressive arts (using music, art, dance, drama and creative, imaginative writing).

Communication

- Expressing ideas, information, thoughts and feelings clearly
- Listening well to others
- Using technical terms in religion accurately.

Analysis and Evaluation

- Explaining the strengths and weaknesses of a particular argument
- Considering alternative views, weighing up key evidence
- Making informed choices
- Supporting ideas with good reasons and evidence.

Developing important attitudes in RE

As well as key skills RE is also committed to developing key attitudes. These attitudes are central to learning in RE. They include:-

Self-awareness

- Feeling confident about their own beliefs and identity and sharing ideas without embarrassment
- Developing a positive sense of their own beliefs and ideas
- Responding to the beauty of the world and to human creativity.

Respect

- Developing the skills of listening and a willingness to learn from others
- Appreciating and valuing difference and diversity
- Being sensitive to the feelings and ideas of others.

Open-mindedness

- Being willing to learn and gain new understanding
- Engaging in discussion, agreeing and disagreeing reasonably and respectfully.

Appreciation and Wonder

- Developing imagination and curiosity
- Appreciation of the world in which they live and respect for its conservation and protection
- Responding to questions of meaning and purpose and the beauty of their environment.

PRIMARY RE

What do children study ?

In primary RE, children learn about different beliefs, values and ways of life. They explore stories, celebrations, worship and rituals in religion, observing similarities and differences. They suggest meanings for religious symbols and use specialist vocabulary to communicate their knowledge and understanding. They reflect on their own and others' views of religion and what it means to belong to a faith community. They explore Christianity and some of the other principal religions, especially Hinduism, Judaism and Islam.

In primary RE, children learn through key themes. At key stage 1, these include myself, leaders and teachers, belonging, signs and symbols, and stories. At key stage 2, they include beliefs and questions, teachings and authority, pilgrimage, the journey of life and death, inspirational people, religion and the family, and beliefs in action in the world.

RE is enriched in primary schools by visits to places of worship and encountering people from various faiths. Children also develop the use of ICT skills in investigating beliefs and values.

What standards do children achieve?

As with the national curriculum subjects, RE in Devon has an eight level scale which is used to assess children's progress.

At level 2 (the expected level for most 7 year-olds), children demonstrate that they can use religious words and phrases to identify some features of religion. They can retell stories and suggest meanings for religious actions and symbols. They ask and respond sensitively to questions about their own and others' experiences and feelings. They begin to think about their own values and those of others.

At level 4 (the expected level for most 11 year-olds), children can describe some similarities and differences both within and between religions. They can describe the impact of religion and beliefs on people's lives and suggest meanings for different forms of religious expression. They can apply their ideas to their own and other people's lives. They are able to describe what inspires and influences themselves and others.