

Religious Education at Hawley

At Hawley, every child is entitled to meaningful opportunities and real experiences. In Religious Education, in the Early Years, we begin with the child and their family's beliefs and then gradually introduce new concepts and ideas from the wider community.

Intent

We want our children to grow up with an understanding of their own belief system and that of their family, as well as a respect for the beliefs of others in our school and the wider world. We want our children to be reflective learners, to consider different ideas, to find a quiet place within themselves in order to develop a sense of self and others. Children enjoy attending a school with a wealth of beliefs and none, and are excited and engaged in learning from each other as well as the wider world. The children have opportunities to learn through **real experiences**, such as visiting local places of worship, interviewing visitors about their religious beliefs and experiencing the significance of certain food such as doughnuts fried in oil during the Jewish festival of Hannukah. The children enjoy all forms of **creativity** when studying R.E., both by looking at religious art and design, such as Islamic tiles and prayer mats, and then creating their own. The children develop a growing sense of **community** during their time at Hawley and understand that they are part of overlapping communities and can learn from each other. For example, Reception children talk about their own experiences of prayer in Christian and Muslim faiths. We also look at faiths less represented at Hawley such as Sikhism and Buddhism and introduce children to new language and viewpoints.

Implementation

Our planning is informed by the Agreed Syllabus for Camden - "Living Difference 3." We study the six major world religions- Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Sikhism and Buddhism. In addition, we study Humanism in recognition that many people do not have a religious belief, but still have a moral framework to inform their lives. Each key stage covers these seven main faiths, from Reception to Year 6. We introduce language and concepts in Reception and KS1 which will be built on, with subject specific vocabulary, in KS2. We use themes in our planning such as "Family and Community," "Storytelling" and "Special and Sacred," to aid the children's understanding and help them to make links. In KS1 and KS2, the children have an RE book which is passed up from year to year so that each child collects their own evidence which they can build on as their understanding develops. This evidence is recorded in a variety of ways such as photos, drawings, jottings and other samples of work. In Reception, the children have a shared class floor book where we collect samples of children's work, photos and note down the children's own words to show their developing understanding.

Impact

We use evidence collected to ensure that each child grows not only in their knowledge of different religions but also in their understanding of why people have different belief systems. We want the children to continue to be interested and respectful of their neighbours long after they leave Hawley and it is these values that we will be building on in RE alongside their knowledge of different religions.

