



Biscovey Academy RE

RE Intent Statement

Children at Biscovey Academy are offered a broad RE curriculum which covers a range of cultures and beliefs. The curriculum has been shaped around our desire to expose and teach our children to understand and accept other people's values, and to make connections to their own lives. By doing so, we believe Biscovey children will grow up to be well-informed individuals who aren't afraid to question or challenge stereotypes around a person's belief.

Biscovey Academy is a school where everyone **DREAMS** big! DREAMS is capitalised within our tag line as it stands for one of our core values which underpin all the work we do here at Biscovey Academy.

D= Diversity- Our students are exposed to several different religions, traditions and beliefs so they can accept and embrace that others may think differently to them. This is achieved through a broad and balanced religious education curriculum where children learn about others' religions, explore how this impacts on their lives and discuss how this compares to their own lives.

R= Rules- We have high expectations for behaviour, routines and expectations for children. We ensure they adhere to our school rules of Ready, Respectful and Safe.

E= Empathy- By widening children's perspectives of other religions, cultures and beliefs, children are taught to be empathetic of others from each RE unit. Biscovey teaches children the significance of being considerate of other people's life decisions which they can then demonstrate in their school lives and through to adulthood.

A= Aspirations- We strive for children to have ambitions which is embedded throughout our curriculum. Through our RE curriculum, children are encouraged to aspire to be the best version of themselves they can be who are understanding, accepting and supportive of each person they come into contact with.

M= Motivation- Our RE curriculum exposes children to how different people around the world live, including celebrations and traditions. This, in turn, encourages our children to compare this to any traditions they may have and recognise some similarities within this.

S= Success- We aim to inspire and motivate children at Biscovey to want to be successful individuals who acquire their own opinion of others in spite of any cultural differences they may have. This, we believe, will shape their integrity and support them with their relationships and perceptions with others in their future.

The intent of our religious education curriculum is to provide a broad prospectus that is accessible to all which delves into various religions that will, in turn, provide children with a deep insight into the lives of those who follow them. By doing so, children are able to make sense of different beliefs by identifying what it is others believe in, the impact that this may have on their everyday lives in order to make their own connections with this. It is imperative to us that children are able to reflect and relate to others' values in order to accept and embrace the fact that others can think differently to them. Our ethos encourages children to be deeper learners and thinkers, which allows them to share their views and challenge others' beliefs in a mature, constructive manner.

RE Implementation Statement

At Biscovey Academy we utilise the resources with Discovery RE, a whole school RE programme in order to shape our own RE curriculum. Each year group is taught Christianity, with another religion. The religions covered at Biscovey are:

- Christianity
- Judaism
- Sikhism
- Hinduism
- Islam

Alongside these areas of study, as a school, we feel it is important to embrace and reflect on a wide range of religious festivals and events which are of national significance throughout the year.

There are no presumptions made as to the religious backgrounds and beliefs and values of the children and the staff. We value the religious background of all members of the school community and hope that this will encourage individuals to share their own experiences with others freely. All religions and their communities are treated with respect and sensitivity and we value the links, which are, and can be made between home, school, and a faith community. We acknowledge that each religion studied can contribute to the education of all our pupils.

At Biscovey, the teaching and learning of RE will require the pupils to follow an enquiry-based approach to RE, investigating key questions related to the religion they are studying. These topic lead questions will deepen the pupils' knowledge and allow them to encounter core concepts in religions and beliefs in a coherent way.

The teaching and learning approach has three core elements -

Making sense of beliefs –

- Identify, describe, explain and analyse beliefs and concepts in the context of living religions, using appropriate vocabulary.
- Explain how and why these beliefs are understood in different ways, by individuals and within communities.
- Recognise how and why sources of authority (e.g. texts, teachings, traditions, leaders) are used, expressed and interpreted in different ways, developing skills of understanding.

Understanding the impact –

- Examine and explain how and why people express their beliefs in diverse ways.
- Recognise and account for ways in which people put their beliefs into action in diverse ways, in their everyday lives, within their communities and in the wider world.
- Appreciate and appraise the significance of different ways of life and ways of expressing meaning.

Making connections –

- Evaluate, reflect on and enquire into key concepts and question studied, responding thoughtfully and creatively, giving reasons for their responses.

- Challenging the ideas studied and allow the ideas studied to challenge their own thinking, articulating beliefs, values and commitments clearly in response.
- Discern possible connections between the ideas studied and their own ways of understanding the world, expressing their critical responses and personal reflections with increasing clarity and understanding.

Planning and teaching will ensure the following skills are used, in order to strengthen and deepen the understanding and knowledge taught: Investigating, Reflecting, Expressing, Interpreting, Empathising. The RE curriculum will also promote: Curiosity and wonder, commitment, fairness, respect, self-understanding, open-mindedness and critical mindedness, which work alongside the SMSC links and British Values implemented within our school.

RE Impact Statement

Children will demonstrate a positive attitude towards people of any religion and show an understanding of cultural beliefs different to their own. Pupils will learn about respectful behaviour and how this transfers outside of school, into the wider community and beyond.

Our Religious Education curriculum will provoke challenging questions about, beliefs, about God, issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human, while also offering opportunities for personal reflection and spiritual development. It enhances pupils' awareness and understanding of religions and beliefs, teachings, practices and forms of expression, as well as of the influence of religion on individuals, families, communities and cultures.

The importance of Religious Education is that it encourages pupils to develop their sense of identity and belonging. Religious Education has an important role in preparing pupils for adult life, employment and lifelong learning. It enables pupils to develop respect for and sensitivity to others, in particular those whose faiths and beliefs are different from their own. It promotes discernment and enables pupils to combat prejudice.