

Aims of the Religious Education Curriculum at St. James'/William Martin

At St. James'/William Martin we strive to achieve religious literacy for all children, so that they are able to hold a balanced, well-informed discussion about religion and belief.

In order to achieve this aim, our curriculum takes a multi-disciplinary approach, and provides a balance between three disciplines: Theology, Philosophy and Human and Social Sciences.

The curriculum has been split to encompass all three of these disciplines equally under an overarching umbrella question per term for each year group.



Theology umbrella questions are about believing. The children examine where beliefs come from, how they have changed over time, and how they are applied in different contexts.



Philosophy umbrella questions are about thinking. The children find out how and whether things make sense. Questions of morality and ethics will be explored.



Human and social science umbrella questions are about living. The children explore the diverse ways in which people practise their beliefs and the impact that beliefs have on individuals, communities and societies.

When deciding which principal religions to study, we carefully considered religions of the pupils within the school and the religions within our local context and these are reflected within our provision.

Religious Education in EYFS and Key Stage 1:

In the Foundation stage and Key Stage 1, pupils partake in an in-depth investigation of Christianity and Hinduism. They also encounter the religion of Islam.

Religious Education in Key Stage 2:

In Key Stage 2, pupils partake in an in-depth study of Christianity, Islam and Judaism. There is a particular focus on understanding the connections between these Abrahamic religions. In the latter stages of KS2, the children also explore Humanism as an alternative worldview.

As a Church of England School, approximately 60% of curriculum time across the key stages is dedicated to the study of Christianity.