



Religious Education at St.Alban's CE Primary School

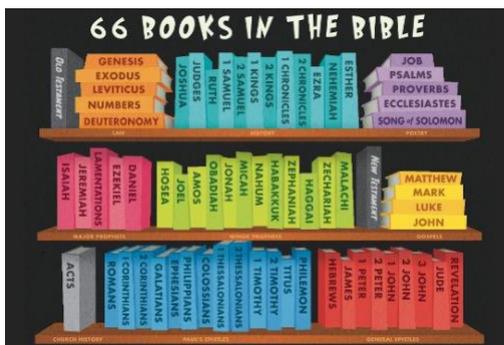
Why is Religious Education important to our school?

Religious Education is a foundation for students to better understand the culturally diverse world that we live in and find their own place within it. At St.Alban's, Religious Education has a significant role in the development of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding. Our R.E curriculum aims to foster respect, empathy, and tolerance towards different religious perspectives. Furthermore, we hope to encourage children to reflect upon their own beliefs, values, and personal identity in light of the knowledge gained from studying different religious traditions.

Bibles

All children are presented with their own bible when they enter Year 3 and they will regularly use these bibles throughout KS2. Children are taught how to navigate a bible in R.E lessons and collective worships so that they are able to quickly find any given bible verse. By using the same bible year on year, children will become increasingly familiar with the text format and new learning is not hindered by having to simultaneously interpret a different bible. When children leave in Year 6, they get to keep their bible, promoting a sense of belonging. Throughout their time at St.Alban's, children will encounter most of the books in the bible and these are mapped out on the school R.E long-term plan. Teachers refer to which testament and book they are reading from, using the below resource to highlight this and deepen children's understanding.

Teachers refer to which book they are reading from using this image.



Y6 children using their bibles in R.E lessons.

Religious experiences

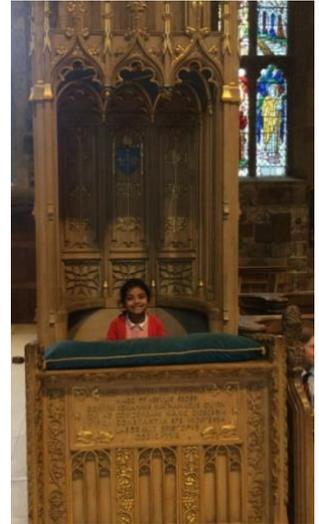
We aim to develop the cultural capital of our students by providing them with ample first-hand experiences that broaden their understanding of world religions. In Year 3, children visit the local cathedral where they learn about the cathedral's rich and colourful history. The cathedral is the perfect place for children to experience awe and wonder. In Year 6, children visit the

local Mosque as part of their unit on Islam. This brings learning to life, enabling children to know and remember more.

Also, throughout their time at school, children will encounter visitors from a variety of different religious backgrounds, including Hindus, Muslims and Christians. Children are able to ask questions and are encouraged to consider similarities and differences between religions. Furthermore, meeting individuals from different religious backgrounds helps to prepare our children for life in the real world and aims to foster respect and understanding towards different religious perspectives.



Y5 children asking questions about Islam to a Muslim visitor.



A Y3 child at Sheffield Cathedral.



Y6 children in a local Mosque.

Curriculum design

As a Church of England school, religious education is a highly valued academic subject that is integral to school life at St. Alban's. R.E is taught every week in both lessons and collective worship time. At the heart of R.E in our school, is the teaching of Christianity however, pupils also learn about other faiths and world views. The theological concepts and knowledge that children encounter while at St. Alban's are identified in our progressive KSV (knowledge, skills and vocabulary) documents and the End of year documents for each year group.

Understanding Christianity

To help implement our R.E curriculum, we follow Understanding Christianity. Understanding Christianity is used in thousands of schools across the UK and is an approved syllabus by the Church of England. Understanding Christianity explores the significant theological concepts

within Christianity as part of developing children's wider religious, theological and cultural literacy. Understanding Christianity has identified eight core concepts at the heart of mainstream Christian belief (creation, fall, people of God, incarnation, gospels, salvation and kingdom of God.) These concepts are symbolically represented in the "Big Frieze" which children are very familiar with and study each year. Understanding Christianity sets out some knowledge 'building blocks', to clarify what pupils should know and understand about these concepts at each school phase. It provides a teaching and learning approach to unpack these concepts and their impact in the lives of Christians in the UK and the world today. Understanding Christianity ensures that we have progressive coverage of Christianity concepts across school.



Rotherham SACRE

To supplement the teaching of other religions, we use the Rotherham SACRE syllabus. The syllabus explains the value and purposes of RE for all pupils, and specifies for teachers what shall be taught in each age group. It provides a coherent framework for setting high standards of learning in RE, and enabling pupils to reach their potential in the subject. In KS1, children explore Judaism and Islam. In KS2, children learn about Hinduism and revisit learning on Islam. We have chosen to teach Islam twice, as we have several Muslim families in our school and wider community therefore, this is particularly relevant for children in our school.

Spiral Curriculum

Our Religious Education curriculum is taught using a spiral curriculum, where key concepts are regularly revisited to embed knowledge and deepen understanding. Bruner believed that "to achieve progression in learning, teachers should plan to revisit, reinforce and refine students' thinking."¹ At St.Alban's, we regularly recall previous learning in Religious Education through the use of review activities detailed in our review PowerPoint to ensure that our children know and remember more. Furthermore, our curriculum is designed so that key areas of learning are revisited in more depth in later years. Each year, every class study both the incarnation and salvation Understanding Christianity units. This is to ensure that children have a secure, deep understanding of these concepts which is built on year on year.

Assessment

At St.Alban's, we aspire to help children know and remember more. To do this, our R.E lessons incorporate regular retrieval of previously acquired knowledge. This ensures that important, sticky knowledge is transferred into our students' long-term memories. Reviews are used by teachers as a form of formative assessment to gauge pupils understanding. We also use the Understanding Christianity assessment documents to determine whether children are secure in their knowledge and understanding. In Summer 2, practitioners meet to assess children against

¹ Bruner, J. S. (1960) The Process of education. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press

the end of year assessment criteria for R.E to determine whether a child is working towards (WTS) or working at the expected standard (EXP) for their key stage.

What types of worship would you expect to see at our school?

- Children regularly lead worship
- Reflective prayer areas in every classroom and central school areas
- Spiritual help desks throughout school
- All classes engage with the Bible weekly using a supporting resource called *Gospels in Schools*
- Our School Prayer Books are displayed in every classroom, <https://wsap.academy/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Final-School-Prayers-1.pdf>
- Daily prayers, including, lunch time and end of day prayers
- All children in year 2 and key stage 2 have their own Bible which they are encouraged to bring to collective worship
- A comprehensive long term plan for collective worship. Our children get to know their Bible well! <https://wsap.academy/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/St-Albans-Collective-Worship-LTP-.pdf>
- Collective Worship policy implemented and reviewed regularly <https://wsap.academy/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Policy-for-Collective-Worship.pdf>
- Throughout school we display scripture from the Bible. Children often ask the big questions responding to scripture, what does this mean? What do I believe? How shall I now live my life?

For further information regarding our distinct Christian Character then please take a look at our website.