

Merstone School Religious Education – Intent and Implementation

<b>Intent</b>	<p>At Merstone School, pupils are empowered to learn skills from a balanced curriculum. Merstone’s Religious Education curriculum provides pupils with the opportunity to learn key skills and gain an understanding of different religions, understanding and tolerance of others and their opinions.</p> <p>RE’s place in the curriculum is underpinned by values and purposes. Along with the other subjects of the curriculum, RE aims to provide opportunities for all pupils to learn and to achieve; promote pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and to prepare all pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of the present and the future.</p> <p>Pupils will have the opportunity to explore and experience religious Education through senses and sensory exploration</p>
<b>Implementation</b>	<p>The foundation for pupils’ Religious Education journey starts in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), where students learn through a cross-curricular, thematic approach. During their time in EYFS, pupils develop a core understanding of the skills they will need to apply in Religious Education during the rest of their time at Merstone School and beyond.</p> <p>In Ruby Department, the pupils explore and experience the subject of Religious Education through a whole range of activities. Each term the department has a different theme that is not repeated throughout the pupils’ school life. This enables staff to plan a variety of activities and ensure that pupils have access to a world of experiences. These experiences will include weekly Star assembly, Special events each half term linked to the planned theme, celebrating cultural events from around the world and across all 6 religions that we explore at Merstone School.</p> <p>In Sapphire Department, the pupils follow a pre formal curriculum that enables pupils to access all areas of Religious Education through their own lives and the world around them. The pupils experiences special days in the calendar, cultural events and participate in activities that are important to them and their families. All pupils attend Star Assembly each week and celebrate each other’s successes and achievements.</p> <p>In Emerald Department Merstone School’s Religious Education curriculum features an exciting range of topics that ensures that pupils experience a balance of both Christianity and five other main religions. We follow the National Curriculum to ensure that the content of our Religious Education delivery encompasses the key skills pupils need to develop, which is further supported with specific topics from the EQUALS schemes of work.</p>

In Topaz Department, the pupils explore and experience the subject of Religious Education through a whole range of activities and a play based approach. This enables staff to plan a variety of activities and ensure that pupils have access to a world of experiences. These experiences will include weekly Star assembly, Special events each half term linked to the planned theme, celebrating cultural events from around the world and across all 6 religions that we explore at Merstone School.

In Diamond Department In Key stage five (Sixth form) pupils do not have explicit Religious Education lessons, but rather learn through a thematic, cross-curricular approach. Pupils' learning is centred on the modules of ASDAN: Towards Independence. Pupils are able to apply their skills learnt in Religious education previously at Merstone School.

Throughout Merstone School, pupils attend regular educational visits, allowing them to gain a first-hand experience of many different faiths and their differing features.

Across the school teachers are given ownership and opportunity to choose topics that will best suit the pupils, whilst also maintaining the skills and subject specific content that pupils are required to learn.

Through a well-considered Religious Education curriculum, Merstone school is ensuring that the skills and knowledge acquired by pupils, enables them to thrive during their time at school as well as later in life in the community.

All pupils across the whole school will attend assemblies with other classes in different departments

