Religion & Worldviews at Poplars

Intent

At Dell, we provide an inclusive and ambitious Religion and Worldviews (R&W) curriculum that encourages curiosity, understanding, and respect for a wide range of religious and non-religious beliefs and practices. Our aim is to empower pupils by enabling them to explore diverse religious and ethical perspectives, nurturing both their character and their worldview. We equip pupils with the values and skills needed to become compassionate, responsible, and engaged citizens in an ever-changing, diverse world.

R&W encompasses the study of faiths, cultures, and philosophical perspectives, and our curriculum reflects both our local community and the wider world. We ensure pupils can see themselves represented within their learning, while also being encouraged to develop their own sense of identity and belonging. Pupils are challenged to reflect, analyse, interpret, and evaluate issues of truth, belief, and ethics, and to communicate their own ideas clearly, while being sensitive to the perspectives of others.

By revisiting key "big questions" and building on prior knowledge, children learn how religion and worldviews are lived experiences across the globe and consider how beliefs shape individuals, communities, and societies. In doing so, they not only strengthen their understanding of others but also develop the confidence to consider their own responses, values, and preconceptions.

Our curriculum is aligned with Dell's core values:

- **Respect:** Pupils are taught to respect and value beliefs that may differ from their own, engaging thoughtfully with diverse worldviews.
- **Integrity:** We foster open and honest dialogue in lessons, enabling pupils to express their ideas with integrity, while exploring the moral dimensions of religions and philosophies.
- **Passion:** Children are encouraged to develop a passion for understanding the wider world by exploring faiths, traditions, and values that stretch beyond their own experiences and communities.
- **Ambition:** We inspire children to think beyond their immediate context, encouraging them to set personal goals for growth, reflection, and understanding.
- **Collaboration:** Pupils engage in meaningful discussions, debates, and shared reflections, recognising the importance of collaboration and empathy when comparing different worldviews.

Implementation

The National Curriculum outcomes are embedded within a carefully sequenced and spiral R&W curriculum. Concepts are revisited and built upon so that pupils deepen their understanding over time, encountering big ideas in multiple contexts to secure progression in knowledge and skills.

Three strands of knowledge are interwoven across all units:

- **Substantive knowledge:** understanding beliefs, practices, and traditions.
- **Disciplinary knowledge:** using different lenses to study and question religion and worldviews.
- **Personal knowledge:** reflecting on one's own assumptions, experiences, and identity in relation to content studied.

In EYFS, pupils begin exploring religion and worldviews through traditions and celebrations such as Christmas, Diwali, and Eid, alongside explicit teaching of difference and diversity. Stories, artefacts, visuals, and role play support children in reflecting on their own and others' beliefs and cultures.

In Key Stage 1, pupils begin to encounter explicit study of a limited number of religions and worldviews represented in the UK, focusing on conceptual understanding. In Key Stage 2, this knowledge is broadened and deepened through exploration of a wider range of worldviews and more complex enquiry-based questions. Units are structured around "big questions," such as:

- Why are we here?
- What is religion?
- Why do worldviews change?
- How can worldviews be expressed?
- How do worldviews affect our daily lives?
- How can we live together in harmony with different worldviews?

Each unit is also framed by a specific enquiry question, giving pupils the opportunity to apply their knowledge, make connections, and reflect on their personal responses.

R&W is taught once a week each half term, aligned with the Kapow scheme, and is often linked to religious festivals or significant calendar events. While taught discretely, R&W also connects with assemblies, music, art, history, PSHE, and wider school life to provide real and relevant contexts.

Every lesson begins with a "Do Now," revisiting prior knowledge to strengthen retention. Lessons focus on knowledge-rich content while also encouraging reflection, discussion, and debate.

Impact

Through our R&W curriculum, pupils will:

- Be engaged, challenged, and inspired.
- Receive consistently high-quality teaching and access to a wide range of resources.
- Develop secure knowledge of key concepts including belief, practice, belonging, wisdom, and guidance.
- Build confidence in expressing their own worldview and responding to others with respect and open-mindedness.
- Understand religion and worldviews as diverse, lived experiences both within and between communities.
- Acquire disciplinary skills to investigate, interpret, evaluate, and apply their learning.
- Strengthen their vocabulary and use it confidently when discussing big ideas.
- Develop the ability to reflect on their personal preconceptions and assumptions.

Assessment and Monitoring in R&W

- Lesson observations, book monitoring, and learning walks.
- Gathering pupil voice to evaluate confidence, engagement, and understanding.
- Unit quizzes and knowledge catchers at the end of each unit for summative assessment.
- Use of "Check for Understanding" throughout lessons as a formative tool to inform planning and next steps.
- Same-day interventions to address gaps in knowledge and understanding.