



Vision for RE

Together, with the love and joy of God, we will discover, develop & maximise our unique potential.

The Father has loved us so much! He loved us so much that we are called children of God. And we really are his children. - 1 John 3:1 - ICB



How does the teaching of Religious Education underpin the Christian vision of the school?

The value of love is at the heart of both the Christian faith and our vision here at NJK. God's love for all people inspires us to give love in abundance. We value and care for ourselves, others and the world around us as God's creation; demonstrating our values of **friendship, compassion, forgiveness and respect**. We believe this is of the highest importance when teaching RE to enable pupils to explore their **differences with tolerance and mutual respect**. RE in this school contributes to the outworking of our vision by ensuring that as a school we create safe learning environments in which the children feel able to express their opinions and view without judgement. As a school we ensure that children and adults feel as though they can talk about Christianity and other world religions in the way that Jesus taught us all to love one another. Our school vision is integral to everything we do at NJK. We want to **discover** and **maximise** each **child's unique potential**. We aim to deliver a **joyful and inspiring** curriculum and school experience where every child feels loved, valued and cherished. Our RE curriculum specifically contributes to our distinctively Christian character and provides children with the opportunity to explore our Christian values and provides children with the opportunity to explore our Christian values, and flourish as citizens in a pluralistic and global community.

NJK's RE Curriculum Intent:

Through our Religious Education curriculum we aim to :

- **engage** pupils in enquiring into and exploring questions arising from the study of religion and belief, so as to promote their personal, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- **provide** learners with knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other principal religious traditions and beliefs represented in Great Britain.
- **develop** their understanding of the ways in which beliefs influence people in their behaviour, practices and outlook.
- **enable** learners to apply the insights of the principal religious traditions to their own search for identity and significance.
- **enable** learners to become aware of their own beliefs and values and to have a positive attitude to the search for meaning and purpose in life.
- **encourage** learners to develop a positive attitude towards other people who hold religious beliefs different from their own.

NJK's RE Curriculum Implementation:

Statement of Entitlement

RE at NJK fulfils the Church of England's statement of entitlement.

'Religious education in a Church school should enable every child to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10). It will help educate for dignity and respect encouraging all to live well together.'
February 2019

Legal Requirements

RE is provided to all pupils at NJK as a necessary part of a 'broad and balanced curriculum'.

At NJK RE is planned, taught and assessed using both the Worcestershire locally agreed syllabus 2020 and The Understanding Christianity Resource.

The RE curriculum at NJK reflects the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, while taking account of the teaching & practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain.

RE at NJK is open, broad and gives children the opportunities to explore a range of religious and non-religious world views. However, parents have the right to withdraw their children from RE on the grounds they wish to provide their own religious education.

RE coverage at NJK

4 -5s	Children will encounter Christianity and other faiths, as part of their growing sense of self, their own community and their place within it.	Opportunities to explore other religions and non-religious world views will be explored when appropriate.
Reception		
5 - 7s	Christians , Muslims & Jews	
Key Stage 1		
7 -11s	Christians & Muslims, Hindus & Jews	
Key Stage 2		

Aim of Religious Education

Principal aim: Worcester Agreed Syllabus 2020

The principal aim of religious education is to explore what people believe and what difference this makes to how they live, so that pupils can gain the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to handle questions raised by religion and belief, reflecting on their own ideas and ways of living.

At NJK the following pupil friendly version is shared with pupils and referred to regularly and the children are familiar with the aim and purpose of RE lessons.

RE explores what people believe



and what difference this makes



to how they live.

We gain knowledge & understanding



to answer questions



about belief and to think



about our own ideas.



Understanding Christianity

We use Understanding Christianity to support pupils in developing their understanding of Christianity, as a contribution to their understanding of the world and their own experience within it. It does this by integrating pupils' developing understanding of significant theological concepts within Christianity with their own self-understanding and understanding of the world, as part of their wider religious literacy.

The key aims are:

- To enable pupils to know about and understand Christianity as a living world faith, by exploring core theological concepts
- To enable pupils to develop knowledge and skills in making sense of biblical texts and understanding their impact in the lives of Christians
- To develop pupils' abilities to connect, critically reflect upon, evaluate and apply their learning to their own growing understanding of religion and belief (particularly Christianity), of themselves, the world and human experience.

Teaching & Learning

The RE at NJK is based on an Enquiry approach (Theological) that was suggested after the September 2014 Making a Difference - a review of Religious Education in Church of England Schools Report was published.

Learning in the RE Classroom is developed through RE-Searchers, that enable pupils to develop:

- **theological enquiry &**
- **theological thinking**

It is called 'the RE-searchers approach'. It encourages pupils to think about the significance and effectiveness of different methodologies and methods of enquiry in Religious Education. To make these accessible to young children, they have personified some of them as cartoon characters. Individually these characters are called

Debate-it-all Derek,

Ask-it-all Ava,

Have-a-go Hugo, and

See-the-story Suzie.

Collectively they're known as the 'RE-Searchers'. Each character holds different assumptions about religion(s) and advocates different research methods (e.g. questioning and arguing, interviewing and empathizing, participating and experiencing, and narrating and exploring interpretations). Once acquainted with the characters and their respective characteristics as researchers, our pupils can undertake learning activities associated with each of them in pursuit of different understandings of religion(s).

The RE- searchers approach develops a repertoire of approaches to learning and builds the process of enquiry into the way pupils' progress.

NJK's RE curriculum Impact:

Religious Education at NJK develops pupils'...

- knowledge and understanding of, and their ability to respond to, Christianity, other principal world religions, other religious traditions and world views;
- understanding and respect for different religions, beliefs, values and traditions (including ethical life stances), through exploring issues within and between faiths;
- understanding of the influence of faith and belief on individuals, societies, communities and cultures;
- skills of enquiry and response through the use of religious vocabulary, questioning and empathy;
- skills of reflection, expression, application, analysis and evaluation of beliefs, values and practices, and the communication of personal responses to these.

Religious Education at NJK's encourages pupils to...

- consider challenging questions of the meaning and purpose of life; beliefs about God, the self and the nature of reality, issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human;
- understand the influence of religion on individuals, families, communities and cultures;
- learn from different religions, beliefs, values and traditions while exploring questions of meaning and their own beliefs;
- learn about religious and ethical teaching, enabling them to make reasoned and informed responses to religious, moral and social issues;
- develop their sense of identity and belonging, preparing them for life as citizens in a plural, global society;
- develop respect for and sensitivity to others, in particular those whose faiths and beliefs are different from their own.

Religious Education at NJK's enhances pupils'...

- awareness and understanding of religions and beliefs, teachings, practices and forms of expression;
- ability to reflect on, consider, analyse, interpret and evaluate issues of truth, belief, faith and ethics and to communicate their responses.

Religious Education at NJK's offers...

- opportunities for personal reflection and spiritual development.