

Religious Education

At Portway Junior School, we are passionate about preparing children for the next stage of their educational journey as well as preparing them to be moral citizens in the ever changing world they are part of. We aim to equip children with the skills they need to be critical thinkers while also having empathy for and interest in people and their worldviews (religious or otherwise).

At Portway Junior, Religious Education is taught using the 'Jigsaw' programme which is a progressive scheme of work which aims to prepare children for life, helping them to know and value who they are and understand how they relate to other people in this ever-changing world'. This approach takes very seriously the philosophy that children are free to make their own choices and decisions concerning their own view of the world and their beliefs and morals. Our RE curriculum does not try to persuade, but rather to inform and develop the skills with which evaluation can take place.

While following the progression of skills and knowledge through the Jigsaw resources, we also use Hampshire's RE curriculum: The Living Difference to structure our learning journeys around the cycle of enquiry.

Each half term, a new concept is taught which enables children to learn about the concept within at least one religious faith while also giving them the opportunity to consider the concept within their own life. The Golden Thread concepts (*Belonging, Community, Special and Love*) repeat across the key stage and this allows children to apply learning from previous experiences throughout the school.

Teaching strategies are varied and encompass the most up-to-date pedagogies and teaching and learning theories (such as growth mindset, metacognition and cognitive load). Lessons are regularly dual coded to aid retention of key vocabulary and concepts, and every lesson includes a starter activity to focus in on new subject knowledge or to reactivate and revisit prior learning.

At Portway, we study Christianity, Judaism and Sikhism in depth. To build on from learning at KS1, we also include learning journeys with concepts studied through Hinduism and Islam. In Year 6, children will also develop their learning of non-faith based beliefs and study humanism through the concept of *community*.

When children leave Portway Junior School, they have a developing understanding of community cohesion and a growing awareness of a range of religions and beliefs. Through our assemblies, special days and RE curriculum, we provide important experiences to help our children become well rounded pupils, accepting of all.

Parents/Carers have a right to withdraw their child from RE and, if they wish to do so, should put the request in writing addressed to the Headteacher.