Mandeville Primary School

Religious Education Progression Map (Nursery–Year 6)

Curriculum Intent

At Mandeville, we believe in high-quality Religious Education for all. Our aim is to enable pupils to become religiously and theologically literate through an enquiry-based approach. Religiously literate Mandeville pupils will be able to make links, debate and question in order to see things from different viewpoints, whether they are from religious or secular homes. We assist our children in gaining shared human understanding, developing personal identity and searching for meaning in the context of evaluating different viewpoints, allowing them to engage respectfully in life in an increasingly diverse society.

Our Religious Education curriculum follows the Emmanuel Project, a scheme of work for Primary RE. Units contain an enquiry cycle, providing opportunities for children to engage with the concept, enquire into the religion, explore different viewpoints, evaluate learning and express ideas in a range of ways. Children use key questions to navigate their learning and answer the enquiry question at the end of each unit. The curriculum focuses on seven faiths and worldviews, with Christianity taking the most prominent role, alongside Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism and Humanism.

Religious Concepts and Threads

RE Thread	How understanding develops across the curriculum
Beliefs and Teachings	From recognising different beliefs and religious stories to explaining beliefs about God, salvation, revelation and the purpose of life.
Sources of Wisdom and Authority	From listening to sacred stories to explaining how the Bible, Torah and Qur'an, religious figures and teachings guide believers.
Worship, Celebration and Sacred Places	From encountering celebrations, prayer and special places to explaining the significance of religious ritual, community worship and holiness.
Symbols and Religious Expression	From noticing symbols and artefacts to exploring their meanings and how they communicate religious beliefs.
Identity, Belonging and Community	From talking about family and belonging to explaining baptism, mitzvot, repentance, reconciliation and Muslim commitment.
Values and Beliefs in Action	From noticing kindness and care to explaining how belief inspires forgiveness, service, good deeds and moral responsibility.
Enquiry and Big Questions	From curiosity and personal responses to reasoned discussion of differing religious and non-religious perspectives.

Substantive Knowledge Progression

Phase	Knowledge and Understanding
Nursery	Explore Harvest, Diwali, Christmas, Chinese New Year and Easter; encounter creation stories and stories about kindness from different faith traditions. Recognise religious artefacts, special places and celebrations. Begin to understand belonging, helping others, fairness and care for the world.

Reception	Understand Christian beliefs about God as creator, the importance of Jesus and the Nativity, helping others, the significance of the Easter cross, the uniqueness of every person and care for creation. Encounter stories and practices from other religious traditions.
Year 1	Understand Christian belonging through the church family, baptism and symbols such as water, light and the cross. Learn how Jesus welcomed people. Explore Jewish mitzvot (commandments and good deeds), tzedakah (giving), Torah stories and Tikkun Olam (repairing the world). Later units explore Jesus' parables, Christian prayer and Pentecost, and Jewish prayers and blessings.
Year 2	Explore Jewish teshuvah (repentance), Rosh Hashanah, the shofar, the story of Jonah and Yom Kippur. Understand Christian beliefs about Jesus as saviour and Emmanuel, the Annunciation, the Nativity and Advent. Further units explore Allah's compassion and mercy, Christian resurrection symbols and discipleship, and the Torah's importance to Jewish communities.
Year 3	Understand Christian reconciliation through forgiveness, the Prodigal Son, confession and peacemaking, including the example of Desmond Tutu. Explore Muslim submission to Allah through the Adhan, Salah, wudu and Bilal. Further units explore Hindu karma, Christian meanings of the cross and Kingdom of God, and the Jewish covenant.
Year 4	Explore Christian salvation through Jesus, the story of Zacchaeus and acts of service, including the Salvation Army. Understand Muslim risalah (prophethood), Muhammad as the final prophet and the revelation of the Qur'an. Later units explore Hindu dharma through Rama and Sita, Sikh gurus and equality, and Christian mission.
Year 5	Understand the Gospel as "good news", the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) and their significance for Christian worship and life. Explore Muslim belief in the Qur'an as Allah's revealed words, received through Jibreel, and its guidance for daily life. Later units examine Hindu pathways to moksha, Jewish holiness, the Christian Eucharist and Buddhist enlightenment.
Year 6	Understand the Christian belief in incarnation: God becoming human in Jesus, believed to be fully human and fully divine. Explore Emmanuel, Jesus' "I am" sayings, Christingle and compassion in Christian living. Other units address Muslim tawhid and belonging, Hindu ideas of Brahman and atman, the Buddhist Triple Refuge, Christian resurrection beliefs and Humanist understandings of happiness.

Disciplinary Knowledge Progression

Phase	Disciplinary Knowledge and Skills
Nursery	Show curiosity; listen to and respond to faith stories; explore celebrations, artefacts and places; talk about their own experiences and care for others.
Reception	Retell religious stories; explore artefacts and firsthand experiences; ask questions; talk about their own beliefs and respectfully recognise the beliefs of others.
Year 1	Describe religious practices and symbols, retell familiar stories, identify simple similarities and give examples of how belonging and good deeds matter to believers.

Year 2	Explain the meanings of repentance, saviour and key festivals using stories and symbols; give reasons why these matter to believers.
Year 3	Explain links between a belief, story and practice (e.g., reconciliation/forgiveness or submission/prayer); use relevant vocabulary and consider examples from lived religion.
Year 4	Explain how religious leaders and teachings influence choices and community action; connect concepts such as salvation, service, prophethood and guidance.
Year 5	Explain the authority and use of religious texts and teachings; relate their meanings to worship and daily life; support explanations with examples.
Year 6	Interpret Christian expressions of incarnation using texts and symbols, relating belief to action; compare perspectives and offer reasoned, respectful responses.