

Religious Education

At Lathom, we adhere to the guidance of the Newham Local Agreed Syllabus which is called "Exploring Beliefs, Celebrating Diversity". It is called this because RE gives children and young people the opportunity for:

- A) Learning about religion and worldviews
- B) Expressing and communicating ideas about religion and worldviews
- C) Gaining and deploying skills needed for the study of religion and worldviews.

How does Religious Education make a significant impact on our children?

In our school, we use the Newham RE Syllabus (2022): Exploring Beliefs, Celebrating Diversity. It aims to provide children the opportunity for:

- A) Learning about religion and worldviews
- B) Expressing and communicating ideas about religion and worldviews
- C) Gaining and deploying skills needed for the study of religion and worldviews.

At Lathom Junior School, we believe that well-taught Religion and Worldviews makes a significant contribution to the education of children; it is important in its own right, and also makes a unique contribution to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils and supports wider community cohesion. Lathom Junior School is at the heart of a diverse community, operating in an era of globalisation where religion and belief for many people forms a crucial part of their culture and identity. Therefore, it is vital that as a school, we develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to life in modern Britain. Children learn through practising the skills of tolerance and mutual respect as seen in Fundamental British values. RE also provides an opportunity for children to understand each other's beliefs, practices and ways of life, so that they can develop a sense of pride and belonging. Our aim is for all of our pupils to have the ability to appreciate difference and diversity, respecting everyone that they meet, work with and live alongside. Our school vision includes the aspect of '...may we live together in a safe and happy place'. RE is the platform for a cohesive community, where difference is valued and appreciated.

How is RE taught at Lathom?

We Lathom, we follow the Newham Agreed Syllabus which allows us to deepen children's knowledge of other religions, whilst holding onto their own beliefs. RE makes a valuable contribution to the personal development of children particularly their spiritual, moral, social, cultural and intellectual development, regardless of whether they come from a religious family background or not. It promotes personal development through exploration of what different religious, spiritual and secular traditions teach about the meaning and purpose of life, as well as learning about values such as justice, honesty and truth. Children also gain opportunities to focus on learning what different religious, spiritual and secular traditions teach about right and wrong. All of this contributes to their social development which enables them to

understand themselves as part of a wider community which is shaped by beliefs of many people. They can have a sense of individuality as well as belonging.

Every week, RE is taught at Lathom, and where possible units of work are linked to key festival dates (Christmas units and Easter Units). This allows more contextualised learning, thus more meaningful for the children. Children are taught six RE units each year. The agreed syllabus makes it compulsory that we provide opportunities for pupils to be taught RE around one 'big question' for each year group and 24 smaller unit questions (6 in each year group as set out below):

BIG QUESTIONS FOR RE UNITS 2022/2023

	<u>Year 3</u>	<u>Year 4</u>	<u>Year 5</u>	<u>Year 6</u>
Big Question	How are symbols and sayings important in religion? Investigating the relationship between religion and symbols.	What is special to me and the people in my community? Investigating the relationship between religion and our neighbourhood.	How do beliefs influence actions? Investigating the relationship between beliefs and actions.	How important are the similarities and differences between and within religions? Investigating the relationship between secular and religious world views.
Autumn 1	How do Jesus and Buddha make people stop and think?	How and why do Hindus worship at home and in the Mandir?	What inner forces affect how we think and behave?	How do people express their faith through the arts in Christianity?
Autumn 2	What is the significance of light in religion?	Why is the bible special for Christians?	How is Christmas celebrated around the world?	What do people believe about life after death?
Spring 1	How do Jews celebrate their religion at home and	What religions and worldviews are represented in our neighbourhood?	Why is Mohammed and the Qu'ran important to Muslims?	What similarities and differences do Religion and world views share?

	in the synagogue ?			
Spring 2	How and why do Hindus celebrate Holi?	Why is Easter important to Christians?	How do Christians follow Jesus's example?	What are the sources of the story about what happened on the first Easter Sunday?
Summer 1	What can we learn about special symbols and signs used in religion?	What Makes me the person I am?	How do People of all faith show thankfulness ?	What qualities are important to present-day religious leader? All faiths. Compare 3 religious leaders.
Summer 2	What do Sikh sayings tell us about Sikhs?	What happens when someone gets married?	What do religions and worldviews believe about God?	How could we design a celebration that involves everyone whether religious or not in a meaningful and imaginative way?

The questions allow children to deepen their learning of and from religious views through 7 lenses of RE (History, philosophy, empathy, theology, debate, experience and worldviews).

Philosophy – This is about asking questions that thinkers would ask. Empathy – This is about recognising personal meaning. Theology – This is about asking questions that believers would ask. Debate – This is about asking questions about the nature of truth and reality. Experienter – This is about asking questions that people who study lived reality or phenomena would ask. It requires pupils to think like human and social scientists, to look at concepts through human/social science. Finally, Worldview- this is gaining understanding that there is no neutral position or truth.

Faith visitors, Places of Worship visits and Special events

Each Year children visit a Place of Worship.

Year 3: Jewish Synagogue

Year 4: Hindu Temple

Year 5: Muslim Mosque

Year 6: Buddhist Temple

We also welcome visitors from the local community from different faiths to host workshops, talks and lead discussion in our school to enthuse the children in RE. As a school, we recognise the need for children to experience religious places of worship as well as seeing practices happen in real life to appreciate the influence of religions on people's lives. We also take part in Harvest collections and Christmas charities to give back to our community in which we coexist. Children took part in the Interfaith Week event by dressing up in cultural clothing to represent our diverse community and appreciate the differences that make up our special community.

Year 3



Year 3 went on an educational visit to St Paul's Church. They participated in a role play based on Nativity and discussed what celebrating Christmas means for Christians around the world. Children enjoyed listening to the story and re-enacting scenes from the story.



Year 3 had a Sikh Visitor from the local Gurdwara. Children were able to ask questions about the signs and symbols they have learnt about through their RE lessons.

Year 4

They took part in the Easter experience hosted by Faith in Schools, at a local church. The children thoroughly enjoyed learning about different symbols of Easter and the story revolving around Jesus and his resurrection. Children also visited the church to learn about the use of the bible and took part in activities around stories from the bible.



Year 5

In Term 3, children had a session with *Faith in Schools* which is a local Christian education charity, working with children and young people of all faiths. Faith in Schools offers lessons to primary and secondary schools in Newham to share what it is like to be a Christian in the 21st century with school children. Year 5 children had a taught session based on the Christian belief of the Holy Trinity and its significance in their faith as part of our unit of work looking at the big question 'What inner forces affect how we think and behave?'



Year 6

On Tuesday 24th May 2022, Faith in Schools conducted Year 6 workshops based on the topic: Why is the Church important for Christians? First, children went on a virtual tour by exploring the Anglican and Catholic church. Children worked with Yvonne and other volunteers in groups and discussed different aspects of the Christian faith. This was done in a carousel style: discuss the importance of worship songs, artefacts, communion, baptism and the Bible. They were given opportunities to share their ideas and reflect on their learning.

Special Events

This year children across all the year groups took part in a Place of Worship competition hosted by Claire Clinton- our RE Advisor for Newham. One of our students was announced as a winner. Here is her work:



In our school, Faith Visitors are welcomed, to support our learning across the school and to provide children with first-hand experiences of having interfaith dialogue with other people of other religions. It enthuses the children and allows them to engage in dialogue about religions and worldviews in a respectful manner.

This year, children took part in the Harvest festival by donating tins and dry foods for a food collection.



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USEFUL WEBSITES

<https://www.newham.gov.uk/downloads/file/4761/newham-religious-education-syllabus-2022>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z7hs34j>

<https://www.retoday.org.uk/news/latest-news/new-re-films-from-bbc-bitesize/>