



Religious Education progression

Religious Education develops children's understanding of religions and worldviews, alongside their ability to ask questions, interpret ideas and reflect on their own values. This overview explains how these skills develop through Key Stages 1 and 2 at Sparkwell All Saints Primary School.

How learning develops

Stage	Progression
Key Stage 1	Children recognise and describe beliefs, practices, stories and symbols. They ask questions, share ideas, make connections with their own experiences and respond sensitively to others.
Key Stage 2	Children explain meanings, make connections and compare religions and worldviews. They use reasons to discuss beliefs, belonging, values and ethical questions.
Deeper development in KS2	Children consider different explanations, examine the influence of history and culture, explore diversity within communities and develop informed responses to complex questions.

Skills developed throughout

Critical thinking, investigation, interpretation, reflection, evaluation, analysis, synthesis, application, expression, self-understanding, communication and problem solving underpin learning. Children develop religious tolerance and learn to consider different perspectives respectfully.

Attitudes developed throughout

Learning nurtures self-esteem, curiosity, fairness, respect, empathy, wonder and open-mindedness. Children practise working with others and develop a sense of community.

Reading the progression

The following pages organise the skills into nine connected areas. They show increasingly thoughtful and independent responses across the key stages; they do not assign each skill to an individual year group.

Acknowledgement

Adapted from RE Skills progression for KS1 and KS2 by Naomi Anstice, Cheshire West SACRE agreed syllabus supplementary materials, October 2018. Resource shared by NATRE at www.natre.org.uk.



Key Stage 1

Children move from recognising and talking about familiar ideas to asking questions, suggesting meanings and making simple connections.

Area of learning	Skills children develop
Beliefs and practices	Talk about a religious practice. Recall and name beliefs and practices, including festivals, worship, rituals and ways of life, and explore what they mean.
Stories and wisdom	Retell a religious story with prompts and recognise that it comes from a sacred text that is special to some people. Suggest meanings in religious and moral stories and discuss sacred writings and sources of wisdom.
Symbols and expression	Recognise religious symbols and words. Explore symbols and actions that express a community's way of life and identify similarities between communities.
Experience and community	Talk about personal experiences and link them to communities they belong to. Ask and respond to questions about what communities do, why they do it and the difference belonging can make.
Enquiry and belonging	Ask who, what and when questions while exploring a religion. Describe different ways people express identity and belonging.
Views and comparisons	Begin to share opinions and identify what matters to themselves and others. Notice and respond sensitively to similarities between religions and worldviews.
Meaning and big questions	Ask questions about themselves and who they are, showing awe and wonder. Explore puzzling questions about creation, God, belonging, meaning and truth, and express their own ideas.
Co-operation	Recognise how to work with others despite differences. Explore examples of co-operation between people who are different and respond with ideas of their own.
Values and choices	Describe ideas that matter to them and what they think is right or wrong. Investigate questions of right and wrong and begin to express their own opinions.



Key Stage 2

Children build on description and questioning by explaining significance, connecting ideas and giving thoughtful, reasoned responses.

Area of learning	Skills children develop
Beliefs and practices	Describe religions and worldviews, connecting new ideas with prior learning. Make connections between their features, including celebrations, worship, pilgrimage and rituals marking important life events.
Stories and wisdom	Connect stories and sayings with what they teach followers. Explain links between stories and community life, and respond thoughtfully to sources of wisdom, beliefs and teachings.
Symbols and expression	Explore beliefs in action and connect them with their own lives and communities. Describe a range of beliefs, symbols and actions to understand different ways of living and expressing meaning.
Experience and community	Respond thoughtfully through different forms of expression. Observe examples of religions and worldviews and explain, with reasons, their meaning and significance for individuals and communities.
Commitment and belonging	Understand the commitment and dedication involved in following a faith or belief. Consider challenges and suggest why belonging to a community may be valuable, including in their own lives.
Views and comparisons	Compare aspects of religions and worldviews, showing similarities and differences. Explore different dimensions of religion and develop a more detailed understanding of those comparisons.
Meaning and big questions	Discuss why people attend a particular place of worship and what belonging means. Explore the Golden Rule and consider thoughtfully and respectfully how it affects their own and others' ways of life.
Co-operation	Discuss faith leaders as peacemakers. Consider and apply ideas about how diverse communities can live together for everyone's wellbeing, reflecting on community, values and respect.
Values and choices	Reflect on their own values and what they can learn from believers. Discuss and apply their own and others' ideas to ethical questions about right, wrong, justice and fairness, explaining their responses clearly.



Deeper skill development in KS2

As understanding becomes more secure, children explore complex ideas, consider alternative explanations and develop clearer, more informed responses.

Area of learning	Skills children develop
Beliefs and practices	Explain how history and culture can influence an individual, and consider how people may question those influences.
Stories and wisdom	Explore eyewitness accounts and consider how events may be understood through psychological or theological explanations and different ways of seeing the world.
Symbols and expression	Discuss their own and others' spiritual experiences and explore connections between communities.
Experience and community	Explain the religions and worldviews they encounter clearly, reasonably and coherently.
Commitment and belonging	Develop insight into diversity within a community and begin to analyse its impact.
Views and comparisons	Discuss the nature of religion and compare the main disciplines studied within RE.
Meaning and big questions	Explore ultimate questions and develop personal, informed responses.
Co-operation	Discuss community cohesion and demonstrate an understanding of different views.
Values and choices	Explore moral and ethical questions using examples to develop their thinking.

The overall direction of progress

Children develop from recognising and describing to explaining, comparing and analysing. Throughout this progression, they continue to ask questions, reflect on their own ideas and communicate respectfully with people whose beliefs or worldviews may differ from their own.