

INTRODUCTION

FOUNDATION STAGE

During the Foundation Stage

- Children begin to explore the world of religion in terms of special people, books, times, places and objects and visiting places of worship.
- Children listen to and talk about stories.
- They are introduced to specialist words and use their senses in exploring religious beliefs, practices and forms of expression.
- They reflect upon their own feelings and experiences.
- They use their imagination and curiosity to develop their appreciation and wonder of the world in which they live.

The Contribution of Religious Education to the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum

The Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum consists of three characteristics of effective learning (CELs) which are:

- Playing and exploring
- Active learning
- Creating and thinking critically

Alongside these CELs which ignite children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, there are three prime areas and four specific areas of learning and development (ALDs):

PRIME:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development

SPECIFIC

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design.

All ALDs are important and inter-connected, but the three prime areas are particularly crucial to support children's early learning and development on which to build their capacity for further learning.

In the early years, young children are encouraged to play and explore, to learn actively and to think critically. Religious Education should make a recognisable contribution to all of these areas.

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During the Foundation Stage children will begin to explore the world of religion in terms of

- special people,
- special books,
- special times,
- special places
- special objects,
- and by visiting places of worship.

In a Church of England Primary school, it is important that the RE component of the curriculum is identifiable in planning and delivery – for a Church school, the SIAMS inspection will be looking at the contribution of RE to the distinctive Christian character of the school and also to the SMSC development of all pupils.