

EYFS RE Overview.

Year group	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2	Visits or Visitors
EYFS	Being special: Where do we belong?	Why is Christmas special for Christians?	Why is the word 'God' so important to Christians?	Why is Easter special to Christians?	What places are special and why?	What times/stories are special and why?	St Thomas' Church - Penkull Stoke-on-Trent ST4 5DW

Autumn

In EYFS, we start with the children; at this age, just starting school, they are naturally focussed on themselves and therefore we build on this by encouraging them to share and develop their own views through the 'Being special: Where do we belong?' unit. The unit also celebrates the fact that they are special and individual, and so are those around them, therefore promoting an interest in, and respect for, others. This is followed by 'Why is Christmas special for Christians?'; for many of our children, Christmas is a very important time of the year of which they have personal memories to share, and upon which we can build new learning and understanding. We are fortunate in having advent calendars delivered to each class by Mike Whitaker from our local church, creating community links and giving the children the opportunity to meet a Christian visitor. Through storytelling and drama, the nativity story and the true meaning of Christmas are introduced, along with key people and vocabulary that form the starting point of the Christian religion.

Spring

Further building on the children's introduction to Christianity through the Christmas story, it is at this point that we introduce the word 'God' and begin to discuss what this means and why it is important to many people ('Why is the word 'God' important to so many people?'). 'Why is Easter special to Christians?' follows this to give children a greater understanding of Christian beliefs and religious background by exploring another familiar event to them (Easter) and reinforcing its relevance to Christians. Through 3 consecutive half terms based around Christianity, we are able to teach systematically and progressively so that children can make connections between the new things they are learning, as well as linking these with events they have experienced in their own lives. This allows for learning to be embedded in to long term memory and also to begin to create, and make sense of, a chronological, 'big story' of Christianity.

Summer

We end the year with thematic units: 'What places are special and why?' and 'What times/stories are special and why?'. Again, the breadth that the children's own experiences bring, coupled with their existing, and newly reinforced, knowledge of Christianity makes these units accessible and meaningful to children. They are encouraged to share their own special places, times and stories, and discover those that are important to others and why – reinforcing what a diverse and interesting world we live in, while modelling respect and tolerance. A lot of learning in EYFS is centred around books and stories (as it is throughout the Willows), so using this as an end of year focus builds on a familiar and enjoyable way of learning for our pupils. Their learning is augmented by a visit to our local church, St. Thomas' in Penkull, which a lot of the children pass on a daily basis (even if they have never previously been inside) and the opportunity to discover its relevance in our community.