



Subject Specific Expectations – A guide to RE at Overdale Junior School

What is RE like at Overdale Junior School?

At Overdale Junior School, Religious Education plays a vital role in shaping thoughtful, respectful, and open-minded learners. We consider this to be a really important subject, especially since our core values are 'Respect, Resilience and Responsibility' and this subject contributes greatly towards enabling our children to become just that. Throughout our curriculum, we foster an environment where children are encouraged to explore the rich diversity of beliefs and values that exist both locally and globally.

Our pupils are naturally empathetic, curious, and accepting, and our RE curriculum builds on these qualities by introducing them to a wide range of religions, worldviews, and philosophical ideas. Through engaging lessons, discussions, and reflective activities, children develop a deeper understanding of the world around them and the people within it.

We place great value on pupil voice, encouraging children to express their own beliefs, ask meaningful questions, and listen respectfully to others. This helps them grow in confidence and develop the skills needed for thoughtful dialogue and critical thinking.

RE at our school is not just about learning facts—it's about nurturing spiritual awareness, moral development, and a sense of shared humanity. Whether exploring sacred texts, festivals, ethical dilemmas, or personal values, children are given the tools to reflect, connect, and contribute positively to their communities.

In a typical RE lesson, you will see:

At our Junior School, Religious Education is a vital part of our curriculum, helping children to grow into thoughtful, respectful, and responsible citizens. Through RE, pupils explore a wide range of religions and worldviews, developing empathy, curiosity, and a deeper understanding of the diverse world around them.

Children are encouraged to:

- Make sense of beliefs, both their own and those of others.
- Make connections between different faiths, values, and traditions.
- Understand the impact of beliefs on individuals, communities, and cultures.
- Our approach is rooted in the values we uphold across school life:
- Respect is fostered through open discussion, active listening, and appreciation of different perspectives.

Resilience is built as children engage with challenging questions, reflect on complex ideas, and learn to express their views with confidence. Responsibility is developed as pupils consider ethical choices, understand the consequences of actions, and explore how beliefs shape behaviour. RE lessons are interactive and inclusive, with pupils regularly using talk partners, group work, and whole-class discussions to explore ideas collaboratively. These activities promote critical thinking, communication skills, and a safe space for sharing beliefs and opinions.

Through this rich and reflective curriculum, children not only learn about religion—they learn how to live with integrity, compassion, and understanding.

Currently we also offer:

At Overdale Junior School, Religious Education is brought to life through meaningful experiences that deepen understanding and promote our core values of respect, resilience, and responsibility.

We offer a wide range of opportunities that enrich pupils' learning and encourage them to engage with belief systems in thoughtful and practical ways:

Each year group takes part in a visit to a different place of worship, allowing children to experience faith in context, ask questions, and develop respect for diverse religious practices and communities.

Lessons are enhanced with a variety of RE resources and religious artefacts, used when relevant to support hands-on learning and spark curiosity about different traditions and beliefs.

We welcome Christian leaders into school to mark key events in the Christian calendar, such as Christmas and Easter. These visits often include question-and-answer sessions, giving pupils the chance to explore faith through open dialogue and deepen their understanding of lived religion.

These experiences help children build resilience in their thinking, as they encounter new ideas and reflect on their own beliefs. They also learn to take responsibility for their contributions to respectful discussions and for developing a broader worldview.

Through this rich provision, our pupils don't just learn about religion—they learn how to engage with it meaningfully, with empathy, curiosity, and confidence.