

Aston Rowant C†E Primary School

WHAT RE LOOKS LIKE AT ASTON ROWANT

Growing together, rooted in God, having fullness of life.

Colossians 2:1-7



Vision: Aston Rowant community will be courageous life-long learners, who are rooted in God, living our Christian values and enjoying life in all its fullness.

Mission: Growing together and inspiring one another through our Christian values and a broad enriched curriculum.

G	GRATITUDE
R	RESILIENCE
O	OUTREACH
W	WONDER
T	TRUST
H	HARMONY

Grateful Our attitude to learning shows that we appreciate the breadth of opportunities that we have to learn inside and outside of the classroom with our resources and surroundings.

Resilient We cultivate a growth mindset from the perspective of building courage, encourage failure by modelling it and showing how to reframe events in a positive light, so children are willing to try new things whilst embracing failure and the opportunities it brings. Let the children learn to have control over their own actions, including trying again if they don't succeed.

Outreach Children will leave Aston Rowant C†E Primary School with an enthusiasm and thirst for learning that continues for the next stage of education and enables the children to live life to its fullness.

Wonder We generate curiosity and wonder about what we teach and allow it to take hold into something that becomes a passion for lifelong learning for all of our children. We openly involve them in their learning by meeting them where they are and then showing them where they can go exploring their interests, expanding upon their ideas, and engaging them in meaningful dialogue which encourages them to fully engage with owning and developing their own learning.

Trust We will develop our children into independent learners to empower them to take control of their own learning – both inside the classroom. Teachers trust that our pedagogical approach cultivates independent habits of mind in the children we teach and the children themselves trust their foundation and values to explore the truths of the world for themselves.

Harmonious The whole school team will grow together, sharing our knowledge, understanding and experience. We will question, encourage and support one another on our learning journey.

Intent

At Aston Rowant CE Primary School, Religious Education is at the heart of our vision to develop courageous, reflective and respectful learners who are rooted in God and able to engage with the world around them.

Our RE curriculum is ambitious, inclusive and knowledge-rich, enabling pupils to develop a secure understanding of Christianity and other principal world religions, as well as non-religious worldviews. Pupils build knowledge progressively, deepening their understanding of beliefs, practices and the impact of faith on individuals and communities locally and globally.

Through RE, pupils are encouraged to demonstrate wonder and curiosity about the world, ask challenging questions and engage in meaningful reflection. They develop the ability to think critically, discuss respectfully and articulate their own beliefs and values with confidence.

We aim for all pupils to:

- Develop substantive knowledge of religions and worldviews
- Make connections between beliefs, practices and ways of living
- Reflect on their own identity, values and experiences
- Show respect, openness and empathy towards others
- Engage in enquiry, debate and discussion

RE plays a vital role in pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, enabling them to understand diversity and prepare for life in modern Britain.

Implementation

RE is taught through a carefully sequenced, enquiry-based curriculum, following the Oxfordshire Locally Agreed Syllabus. Learning is structured to ensure pupils progressively build knowledge and understanding over time.

Pupils learn through two key strands:

- Learning about religion and belief
- Learning from religion and belief

Across the school, pupils study:

- Christianity
- Islam
- Judaism
- Hinduism
- Sikhism
- Non-religious worldviews

Lessons are designed to be engaging, inclusive and thought-provoking, incorporating:

- Structured enquiry questions
- Discussion and debate
- Reflection and personal response
- Opportunities to compare religions and worldviews
- Use of stories, artefacts and real-life contexts

Teachers use high-quality questioning to deepen understanding and challenge thinking. Pupils are encouraged to express their views respectfully and listen to others, developing confidence in discussing complex ideas. Assessment is ongoing and used to inform teaching, ensuring that all pupils are supported and challenged appropriately.

Our curriculum is enhanced through links to our local community and Christian foundation, enabling pupils to connect their learning to real-life contexts and lived experiences.

Impact

As a result of the RE curriculum at Aston Rowant, pupils:

- Develop secure knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews
- Can explain how beliefs influence actions, values and ways of life
- Ask thoughtful questions and engage in reasoned discussion
- Reflect on their own beliefs and demonstrate growing self-awareness
- Show respect, tolerance and appreciation for diversity

Pupils are able to make sense of religion, reflect on their own ideas and understand the role belief plays in shaping the world.

They leave Aston Rowant as thoughtful, informed and respectful individuals, equipped to engage positively with others in a diverse society and prepared for the next stage of their education.

RESILIENCE



Religious Education at Aston Rowant develops **Resilience** by encouraging pupils to engage with challenging questions and explore complex ideas with confidence and independence. Through carefully structured enquiry, pupils are supported to think deeply about big questions, recognising that answers are not always straightforward.

Teachers use open-ended and thought-provoking questions **to** promote independence, ensuring that pupils are not searching for a single correct answer, but are instead learning to explore, justify and refine their own thinking. Pupils are encouraged to draw on a range of sources, including the views of others, religious teachings and their own experiences, to construct thoughtful responses.

Through discussion and debate, pupils learn to listen carefully to differing viewpoints. They begin to understand that disagreement is a valuable part of learning and that respectful challenge helps deepen understanding. Over time, pupils develop the confidence to express and defend their own opinions, while remaining open to new ideas.

Pupils also engage with religious artefacts, texts and lived experiences, using evidence, reasoning and reflection to support their thinking. They are encouraged to apply open-mindedness critically - not only when considering the views of others, but also when reflecting on and adapting their own beliefs.

By the end of Key Stage 2, pupils demonstrate resilience through their ability to hold, articulate and justify their views on religious and spiritual questions, showing independence, critical thinking and maturity in their responses.

"You don't always have one answer in RE - you have to think hard and explain your ideas." Oliver Year 6

OUTREACH



Religious Education at Aston Rowant promotes **Outreach** by enabling pupils to understand how faith connects people, communities and cultures, both locally and globally. Through meaningful relationships and shared experiences, pupils learn that religion is lived, not just studied.

Collaborative working plays a key role in enriching our RE provision. We have strong links with our local church, whose team lead weekly *Open the Book* sessions and deliver RE Inspired lessons each term. These experiences bring biblical stories and Christian teachings to life, helping pupils engage with faith in a dynamic and memorable way.

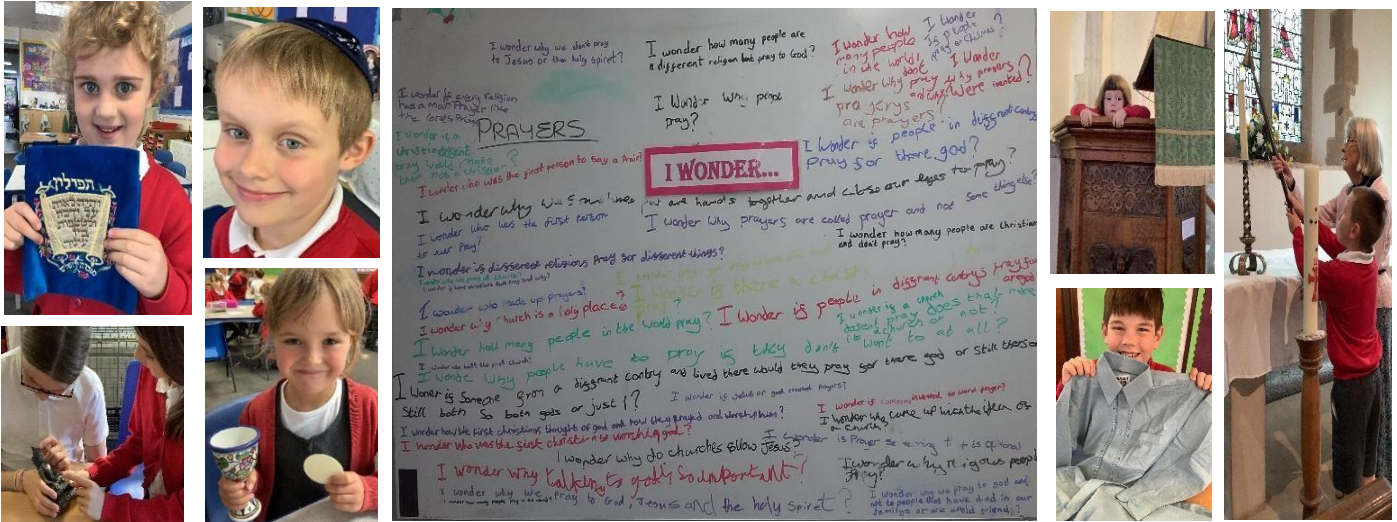
Our curriculum is further enriched through our connection with a partner school in South Africa, providing pupils with opportunities to develop a wider global perspective. Through this link, pupils begin to understand both similarities and differences in beliefs, cultures and lived experiences, fostering empathy and respect.

These varied relationships - within our school, local community and global partnerships - add significant depth and authenticity to our RE curriculum. Pupils see how faith is expressed in real contexts and develop an appreciation of how belief shapes lives across the world.

As a result, pupils understand the importance of community, develop respect for diversity and recognise how they can engage positively with others both within and beyond their own environment.

"I like when visitors come in because you hear real stories about what people believe." Flo Year 2

WONDER



Religious Education at Aston Rowant nurtures **Wonder** by placing curiosity and questioning at the heart of learning. We encourage pupils to explore the world through the lens of “Why?” - fostering a deep sense of enquiry about belief, meaning and human experience.

Our lessons are carefully designed to provoke thought and inspire curiosity, using both explicit and implicit questioning to invite pupils into meaningful discussion. The use of “I wonder...” prompts is embedded within lessons, giving pupils regular opportunities to pose their own questions, reflect on ideas and explore possible answers collaboratively.

Pupils are encouraged to engage with big questions about life, faith and meaning, drawing on stories, religious texts, artefacts and lived experiences. Through visits to places of worship, encounters with visitors and exploration of sacred objects, pupils encounter religion as something lived and experienced, deepening their sense of curiosity and awe.

We also value quieter, reflective moments within RE. Time is deliberately built into lessons to allow pupils to pause, reflect and consider what they have learned and what it might mean for themselves and others. This balance between active enquiry and thoughtful reflection enables wonder to deepen over time.

As a result, pupils develop a sustained curiosity about the world, ask increasingly thoughtful questions and show enthusiasm for exploring ideas beyond the surface level. They begin to recognise that not all questions have simple answers and that this is an important and valuable part of learning.

“We write our own ‘I wonder...’ questions to make us think. Sometimes we answer them and sometimes we keep thinking about them.” Ted Year 4

TRUST



Religious Education at Aston Rowant develops **Trust** by enabling pupils to feel confident in exploring their own beliefs, whilst respecting and learning from the beliefs of others. We recognise that discussing faith, identity and values requires a safe and supportive environment, and we work hard to ensure that pupils feel secure in sharing their thoughts and ideas.

Rooted in our Christian vision, we explore the concept of trust through ideas such as courageous advocacy - standing up for what is right and using our skills and talents to make a positive difference in the world. Pupils learn that trust involves both confidence in themselves and a willingness to engage openly with others, even when ideas differ.

Our curriculum introduces pupils to a broad range of religions and worldviews, carefully sequenced across the school. This breadth of study enables pupils to develop a deep understanding of different beliefs and gives them the confidence to form, express and reflect upon their own views. Through this process, pupils learn to trust their thinking, while remaining open to challenge and new perspectives.

In lessons, pupils demonstrate trust through discussion, debate, questioning and reflection. They engage respectfully with visitors, ask thoughtful questions and participate actively in collaborative learning. Opportunities such as leading Collective Worship in Year 6 and sharing learning in Celebration Assemblies further develop pupils' confidence, independence and sense of responsibility.

As a result, pupils become reflective, self-assured learners who are able to express their beliefs with confidence, listen respectfully to others and engage thoughtfully with the world around them.

"In RE, you can say what you think because everyone listens and respects your ideas." Georgie Year 4

HARMONY



Religious Education at Aston Rowant promotes **Harmony** by enabling pupils to grow and learn together through shared understanding, mutual respect and collaboration. Pupils are encouraged to recognise the value of working with others, appreciating that different perspectives enrich their learning.

In RE lessons, children regularly work together to share ideas, discuss beliefs and explore questions, building strong communication and teamwork skills. Through activities such as think–pair–share, debate, hot seating, role play and the exploration of artefacts, pupils learn how to listen carefully, respond thoughtfully and support one another’s thinking.

Teachers explicitly model and reinforce the behaviours needed to work harmoniously, including respect, patience and openness. Pupils learn that it is possible to disagree respectfully, and that collaboration often leads to deeper understanding and stronger outcomes.

Opportunities to engage with visitors and explore different cultures and beliefs further strengthen this sense of harmony, helping pupils to develop empathy and an appreciation of diversity within both local and global communities.

As a result, pupils demonstrate positive relationships, effective communication and a strong sense of belonging. They understand that working together respectfully is key to both learning and living well alongside others.

“I like working with other people in RE because we share ideas and learn different things.” Esme, Year 1
“I like it when we have visitors and learn about other countries and beliefs.” Tegan, Year 3