



Swainswick R.E. concepts

Whole school definition: R.E. Is the exploration and study of worldwide religions.

Key concepts

Eight key concepts of Religious Education repeat throughout the curriculum. These provide lenses through which to consider the different aspects of R.E.:

Community

Morality

Faith

Tradition

Worship

Symbols

Values

Spirituality

<u>Concept</u>	<u>Why learn this concept?</u>
Community	From a young age children are impacted daily by their community. A community is an all-inclusive group of people who live, work and play near each other. By learning about the communities in which children belong and contrasting these with other communities, children are able to better understand their place in the wider world and develop an understanding of and respect for people from a range of communities. This concept will also allow children to explore how their choices may impact on the wider community
Morality	As children and young people develop a sense of identity they will internalise definitions of right and wrong and use these in a range of situations both personal and philosophical. The exploration of this concept will enable children to understand how moral values and a sense of obligation can come from some people's beliefs and experiences. They will also be able to evaluate their own and others' values in order to make informed, rational and imaginative choices. When children are able to explore the issue of morality it is hoped that they are able to independently make sensible choices when faced with moral decisions.
Faith	Britain is a multicultural and a multi-faith society. Even though many children grow up without a faith, they will potentially grow up in an area where there are people of many faiths. It is important that children explore this concept in order to develop an understanding of people that follow a faith or indeed have no faith. This is vital for us to develop a community where people demonstrate tolerance towards others.
Tradition	Tradition plays a part in everybody's life. All families and communities have their own traditions. These traditions also play a part in the wider local and national community. It is imperative that children understand these traditions and the traditions of others in order to fully understand their place in society and the reasons for Y1-6 many of the celebrations that we share as a nation, as a smaller local community or as families.
Worship	When exploring the concept of worship children are not being taught to worship, they are being taught about worship. This will enable them to make links between worship and faith. In turn children will develop a deeper understanding of the reasons that some people possess the beliefs that they do and why some people conduct themselves in the way that they do. This will contribute towards an understanding and respect of other members of our multi-faith society
Symbols	Children and adults will be exposed to many different symbols throughout their life. In religious education this concept will explore the use of symbols within faith communities. Children will therefore develop a deeper background knowledge of common symbols that they may see in their everyday lives, for example when attending weddings or baptisms. This along with the other concepts will again contribute to helping children to develop deeper understanding and tolerance of many different communities.
Values	This concept links very closely to the concept of morality. At Swainswick we want to assist children to have good values, morals, and ethics. Our personal values are influenced by a number of things and are developed as we grow. By exploring the values of others, including British Values children will be able to think deeply about their own values and develop as an individual.
Spirituality	Spirituality is viewed as beliefs, practices, and experiences that shape and create a way of knowing and living that may be informed by religious ritual, tradition or may not have any religious basis. When exploring spirituality, children will explore their own thoughts and ideas and look at their own identity. They will use the idea of spirituality to express their own opinions and ideas on some of the deeper questions that they may have about the world around them.

Understanding Christianity Core concepts

<u>Concept</u>	<u>Why learn this concept?</u>
<u>God</u>	Fundamental to Christian belief is the existence of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
<u>Creation</u>	The universe and human life are God's good creation. Humans are made in the image of God.
<u>Fall</u>	Humans have a tendency to go their own way rather than keep their place in relation to their Creator. This attitude is called sin, and Genesis 3 gives an account of this rebellion, popularly called 'the Fall'. This describes a catastrophic separation between God and humans, between humans and each other, and between humans and the environment. This idea that humans are 'fallen' and in need of rescue (or salvation) sets out the root cause of many problems for humanity.
<u>People of God</u>	The Old Testament tells the story of God's plan to reverse the impact of the Fall, to save humanity. It involves choosing a people who will model a restored relationship with God, who will attract all other people back to God. The Bible narrative includes the ups and downs of this plan, including the message of the prophets, ¹ who tried to persuade people to stick with God. The plan appears to end in failure, with the people of God exiled and then returning, awaiting a 'messiah' — a rescuer.
<u>Incarnation</u>	The New Testament presents Jesus as the answer — the Messiah and Saviour, who will repair the effects of sin and the Fall and offer a way for humans to be at one with God again. Incarnation means that Jesus is God in the flesh, and that, in Jesus, God came to live amongst humans.
<u>Gospel</u>	Jesus' incarnation is 'good news' for all people. ('Gospel' means 'good news'.) His life, teaching and ministry embody what it is like to be one of the people of God, what it means to live in relationship with God. Jesus' example and teaching emphasise loving one's neighbour — particularly the weak and vulnerable — as part of loving God.
<u>Salvation</u>	Jesus' death and resurrection effect the rescue or salvation of humans. He opens the way back to God. Through Jesus, sin is dealt with, forgiveness offered, and the relationship between God and humans is restored.
<u>Kingdom of God</u>	This does not mean that no one sins any more! The Bible talks in terms of God's 'Kingdom' having begun in human hearts through Jesus. The idea of the 'Kingdom of God' reflects God's ideal for human life in the world — a vision of life lived in the way God intended for human beings. Christians look forward to a time when God's rule is fulfilled at some future point, in a restored, transformed heaven and earth. Meanwhile, they seek to live this attractive life as in God's Kingdom, following Jesus' example, inspired and empowered by God's Spirit.