

RE Overview

Most of our pupils come from small, local, ex-mining villages where families are predominantly White British. Many children have limited experience of non-Christian religions and often lack detailed knowledge of Christianity itself. While our local area includes places of worship, these are mainly Christian. At Hartside, we want our pupils to leave with a broad understanding of the world beyond their immediate community and to appreciate that the world is rich in diverse religions and beliefs. We aim for our children to learn and reflect on religions with respect and tolerance, in line with our school values.

We have **close links with St Catherine's Church**, and Reverend Ann regularly leads key religious assemblies that enrich pupils' understanding of Christian traditions and values. Reflection is an important part of our RE approach; we use **reflection candles** during lessons and assemblies to create calm, thoughtful spaces where children can consider their own ideas, feelings, and beliefs.

Over their time at Hartside, children will engage in learning that provokes challenging questions about meaning and purpose in life, issues of right and wrong, and what it means to be human. They will learn to interpret, analyse, evaluate, and critically respond to the claims made by religious and non-religious worldviews, following the Durham Agreed Syllabus. Through well-sequenced and challenging Religious Education lessons, pupils will develop as articulate, thoughtful, respectful, and well-rounded global citizens. Staff are supported with training and resources to ensure high-quality RE teaching.

Pupils will build religious literacy by focusing on three key elements of Religious Education: **knowledge and understanding, critical thinking, and personal reflection**. They will develop knowledge of religious and non-religious worldviews, respond to these in an informed and insightful way, and reflect on their own ideas and the ideas of others.

Carefully planned visits to Durham Cathedral, churches, synagogues and mosques extend learning beyond the classroom, giving pupils real-life insight into how people express and live out their beliefs. This helps children challenge stereotypes and understand the difference between fact and opinion. Group work and scaffolding ensure inclusivity and support the development of knowledge, understanding, and critical thinking.

Topic Overviews			
Year	A	B	C
EYFS	Let's find out about Harvest	Let's find out about the Bible.	Let's find out about Christian baptism
	Let's find out about Diwali	Let's hear stories about Jesus	Let's find out about Raksha Bandhan
	Let's find out about Harvest in a church	Let's find out about holy books	Let's find out about special buildings and worship there.
	Let's find out about Shabbat	Let's hear some stories that Jesus told	

	Let's find out about the Christmas story Let's find out about Christmas celebrations in churches	Let's find out about Easter story Let's find out about Easter celebrations in churches	
1	What can we learn about Christianity from visiting a church? Why are gifts given at Christmas?	Why is Jesus special to Christians? What is the Easter story?	What can we find out about Buddha?
2	Why is the Bible special to Christians? What can we learn from the story of St Cuthbert? How and why is light important at Christmas?	What does it mean to belong in Christianity? How do Christians celebrate Easter?	How do Buddhists show their belief? What can we learn about our local faith communities?
3	What do Hindus believe and how do Hindus worship? How and why is Advent important to Christians?	What can we learn about Christian worship and beliefs by visiting a church? What do Christians remember on Palm Sunday?	What do Muslims believe?
4	What do we know about the Bible and why is it important to Christians? Why do Christians call Jesus the light of the world?	What do Christians believe about Jesus? Why is Lent such an important period for Christians?	How and why do people show care for others? Why do people visit Durham Cathedral today?
5	Why is Moses important to Jewish people? Why do Jewish people go to the synagogue? What are the themes of Christmas?	What do Christians believe about God? Why is the Last Supper so important to Christians?	How are Jewish beliefs expressed in the home? Why do people use rituals today?
6	What can we learn about religious diversity in our area? What do the gospels tell us about the birth of Jesus?	How and why do people care about the environment? Why are Good Friday and Easter Day the most important days for Christians?	What do we know about Christianity? (exploration through concepts)