

Mercia Primary Academy Trust is committed to teaching Religious Education as an important subject in its own right, as it helps to prepare and equip all pupils for life and citizenship in today's diverse and plural Britain, fostering in each pupil an increasing level of religious literacy. Our schools follow **the Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education**, which has three aims that pupils should acquire:

- (1) An increasing core of insightful knowledge concerning religions and beliefs, both in Britain and in more global terms; by **exploring** religious beliefs, teachings and practices and, so, acquiring knowledge and understanding of religious stories, sacred texts, lifestyles, rituals and symbolism that offer insight into religious experience and living within a faith community.
- (2) A developing capacity to engage with ultimate questions and to formulate children's own sense of identity and values; by **engaging** with fundamental questions, so appreciating the human and religious questions that are raised by life and its experiences, and through which meaning, significance and value are forged, and by expressing and evaluating their personal responses to such questions – so gaining skills to be able to relate the things studied and discussed to their own experience.
- (3) A growing range of the social, spiritual and emotional skills and dispositions appropriate to living well in a religiously plural and open society; by **reflecting** on the reality of religious diversity and on the issues raised by living in a diverse world – so developing skills of analysis and discernment in relation to prejudice, discrimination and bias, together with skills of self-awareness, moral judgement and responsible choice.

At Key Stage One we focus on Christianity and one other faith. At Key Stage Two we focus on Christianity and two other faiths (Islam and Hinduism). However, we also draw on examples from other major faiths (Judaism, Sikhism, Buddhism) where examples of belief and practice better illustrate the dimension being explored and we develop an awareness of secular world views, such as Humanism and atheism.