



Essendon C of E Primary School

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## Religious Education Curriculum Statement

(Using Understanding Christianity & The Emmanuel Project)

### Intent

Our RE curriculum aims to give all pupils a rich understanding of a range of religious and non-religious worldviews so they can develop respect, curiosity and critical thinking about faith and belief. Using **Understanding Christianity** and **The Emmanuel Project**, we provide a broad and balanced curriculum that explores Christianity in depth while ensuring pupils learn about major world religions, including Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism and Buddhism. We want pupils to understand how beliefs shape values, identity and behaviour, and to reflect on their own ideas, experiences and sense of meaning. Our intent is for children to leave school as respectful, thoughtful and reflective individuals who can engage confidently in a diverse and ever-changing world.

### Implementation

We follow **Understanding Christianity** to teach key theological concepts—such as God, Creation, Incarnation and Salvation—through an enquiry-based model that develops pupils' understanding step-by-step. Alongside this, we use **The Emmanuel Project** to provide structured, high-quality units on a range of world faiths, ensuring progression from EYFS to Year 6. Lessons follow an enquiry cycle, typically moving from engaging with a question, exploring religious teachings and practices, and evaluating their significance. Our curriculum balances knowledge of beliefs and practices with opportunities for reflection, discussion and debate. Key vocabulary is explicitly taught and revisited, and lessons are adapted to ensure accessibility for all learners including SEND. Enrichment—such as visitors, places of worship visits, themed days and links to festivals—further deepens pupils' understanding and brings learning to life.

### Impact

By the end of their time with us, pupils develop secure knowledge of Christianity and other major world religions, as well as an understanding of how beliefs influence individuals, communities and cultures. They show respect, empathy and the ability to think critically about different viewpoints. Pupils are able to discuss religious ideas with confidence, ask thoughtful questions and make connections to their own lives. The impact of our curriculum is measured through class discussions, written work, assessment tasks from both schemes, and teacher observations of pupils' ability to explain concepts and reflect on their learning. Ultimately, our RE curriculum helps pupils grow in knowledge, understanding and respect, preparing them to engage positively within a diverse society.