



# The Federation of The Downs & Northbourne Church of England Primary Schools



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## RE survey Report to Parents

We would like to say a big 'thank you' to all the parents who completed the online RE survey a couple of months ago. The response to the questions was overwhelmingly positive and the comments were constructive and interesting! Here are the findings of the survey:

*To the question "What kind of important questions do you think are asked in RE?" you said:*

*How was the world created? What is right and wrong? How do beliefs affect our lives? Why are we here? Do we all have a purpose? Can religion help us to understand each other? Do we have to follow science OR religion or is there a way for them to compliment each other? All kinds of questions to challenge the children to think about life, death, morals and traditions. Why do people worship in a way different to us?*

**Questions about :**

*World events and why they happen. Questions about all major religions and also secular beliefs like Humanism. Linking religions together. Children are asked to question their beliefs. Respecting other religions. Who is God? What other religions are there? Why do bad things happen? What happens when we die? Why can't we see God? Questions about their own beliefs and what they know about other religions. Whatever ..... feels are important questions. As practising Christians .....has his own views on what he thinks is important.*

Wow! We are obviously questioning our children deeply and encouraging discussion - whatever their personal beliefs. We are here to give children *information* about the main world faiths and encourage them to develop their spirituality - not necessarily religiously, but in the way of thinking deeply about others and their beliefs and cultures whilst maintaining a Christian underpinning to our lessons.



Our children feel free to express their own beliefs and hopefully become respectful well rounded individuals.

**To the question "What else would you like to tell us about RE in school?" You said:**

*I think it's important and that hopefully it is backed up at home with discussion. I am pleased that other religions are covered but I would hope that there is a continuing emphasis on Christianity given that Northbourne School is a Church school. That it doesn't matter what anyone else believes, what matters is that you treat people kindly and with respect.*

*Children are enthusiastic about learning in RE - it is creative and they come home and talk about it. They like to tell me what they have learnt. I am unsure about the 'worship' part of Collective worship. The school is excellent in what they are doing. ....always comes back sharing what he has done. There should be more emphasis on teaching Christian values. It would be nice to know what religions are being taught so I can discuss with my child at home.*

We have a 6 Year Plan for teaching RE which all schools - Church or Community must follow. The only difference in the teaching of RE in a CE school is that there is a weighting towards Christianity in the Curriculum. It is statutory that all children are taught RE via two aspects

- 1) Learning *about* religion (the facts and details about why people wear certain clothes and worship in a certain way)
- 2)
- 3) Learning *from* Religion (what do we believe/not believe, how does this relate to my life, how does this help me to understand why Jewish people..... etc)

**To the question " What would make learning in RE even better?" You said:**

*More cross curricular work. More Christian pop and rock - like the "Lords My Shepherd" Townend version that is sung in assembly. More visitors and visits. More time in the local community. More Christianity to be taught. It shouldn't be taught in schools - if you want RE in your life then that's a parents' responsibility and not for schools.*



At the beginning of Sept 14 we will publish a plan of all the RE topics to be covered in all year groups throughout the year.

### Collective Worship

Whereas 'RE' is learning about and from other religions, Collective Worship in a Church of England school is exclusively Christian in its focus and Anglican in its approach.

Thank you for your support in taking part in our survey.

S Muddle  
R.E. Leader

