

Comments made by Primary Children on RE Summer term 2022

Introduction

The Primary RE Adviser participated in a national project which aimed to capture children's comments on RE in their schools. She visited three schools and recorded a small sample of children from year 3 to year 6.

The schools were very different Hampshire primary schools:

2 were large maintained primary schools without a religious focus in towns far away from each other geographically.

1 was a large Church of England primary school in a small town.

All 3 used the Locally Agreed Syllabus, Living Difference IV for their framework for RE and used the cycle of enquiry for teaching.

They spoke about the RE they had done in class, which RE they enjoyed, what they would like more of and what they would say about the value of RE to others. A sample of their comments are provided below.

1. What is RE? All knew it was Religious Education
2. Why do you think it is important?  
It tells you about how other people celebrate and believe.  
You learn things you wouldn't in other lessons, for example why some people believe in God.
3. Do you have to be religious to enjoy RE?  
No, you don't have to believe in God at all, but it helps you understand others who do.
4. Tell me about some RE that you have done this year:  
Belonging in Islam, Kingdom of God in Christianity, Holi in Hindu traditions, Angels, Ritual in Islam, Incarnation in Christianity.
5. What did you learn?  
We learnt about different concepts.  
We learnt about different beliefs and practices, for example we learnt about wudu, Holi, Shabbat.
6. Did you enjoy it? Yes, they enjoyed it and all said they really enjoyed RE.
7. Is there anything you would like to find out about in RE?

Children often spoke about learning more about different religions, for example learning more about Hindu traditions and more about different thoughts about God.

8. Is there anything you would like to do less of in RE? No, the children stated that they really enjoyed all the lessons.
  
9. What would it be like if no RE was taught in school?  
Children's comments varied but for example stated that it wouldn't teach you about different beliefs about God or other religions, that you couldn't understand others and you couldn't learn how to express your own opinions.
  
10. What can the best teachers of RE do that others cannot?  
Go and teach others and spread the news about how to teach RE, be enthusiastic and show others, help children learn through interesting examples.
  
11. What can you do with a good RE education that you couldn't do otherwise?  
Learn about different beliefs and learn about other people's opinions, understand why people celebrate different things.
  
12. What would you say to a headteacher who did not include RE in their school?  
That it isn't fair on the school as the school has been there before you and will be there after you and you cannot just do what you like as a headteacher.
  
13. How can you help parents learn more about what is taught in RE?  
Teach them and show them your work, give them lessons yourself.

How can we share your ideas with others?

Make a ppt presentation, record voices and put on website, help teach others.