

EYFS and RE

The Contribution of Religious Education to the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum

The Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum consists of three characteristics of effective learning (CEs) which are:

- Playing and exploring
- Active learning
- Creating and thinking critically

Alongside these CEs which ignite children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, there are three prime areas and four specific areas of learning and development (ALDs):

PRIME:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development

SPECIFIC

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

All ALDs are important and inter-connected, but the three prime areas are particularly crucial to support children's early learning and development on which to build their capacity for further learning.

In the early years, young children are encouraged to play and explore, to learn actively and to think critically. Religious Education should make a recognisable contribution to all of these areas.

Schools are responsible for incorporating the RE entitlement for Reception children into their curriculum and establishing the best model for delivering this. The Bexley Agreed Syllabus recommends the equivalent of 30 minutes per week of Religious Education for Reception children.

During the Foundation Stage:

Children begin to explore the world of religion in terms of special people, books, times, places and objects and visiting places of worship.

Children listen to and talk about stories.

They are introduced to specialist words and use their senses in exploring religious beliefs, practices and forms of expression.

They reflect upon their own feelings and experiences.

They use their imagination and curiosity to develop their appreciation and wonder of the world in which they live.