

RE Enhancing the curriculum

During the year at Southdale, we have many opportunities to reflect upon important religious events in the religious calendar as well as fortnightly visits from the local vicar, who reinforces the learning and teaches us parables from the big story.

As part of the **Understanding Christianity** units, at the beginning of the Year 5 and Year 3, we go to the Church to launch the big story. The local vicar begins our visit by explaining the journey of God. We reflect on numerous parts of 'God's big plan for humans' by exploring art work, analysing biblical texts, listening to hymns and creating poetry.



At Christmas, we complete a Christmas journey through 'The Cast of Christmas'. We all visit the Church and engage in numerous reflective learning experiences, such as listening to hymns, drama, role on the wall and analysing artwork. Each Christmas reflective journey focuses on a different important individual in the Nativity. This allows us to gain a deeper understanding of why Christmas is important to Christians and how the values of Christmas can be applied in today's world.



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Year 5 and Year 6 visit the Church as part of the narratives, **World War One and Rise up**. We use the space to allow us to consider life's big questions about war and slavery, for example is it ever right to kill? During this time, we learn about key significant religious individuals involved in the war and abolishing slavery.



At Easter, Year 4 visit the Church to take part in the **Easter story**. Through the use of role play this enables us to dig deeper and consider the key question that we are reflecting upon in our religion and world views lessons, 'Why do Christians call the day Jesus died 'Good Friday'?'



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At Southdale, as well as learning about Christianity, we also learn about other faiths and non-religions in our thematic units of the curriculum. We study Hinduism and Islam in depth as well as learning about Judaism and Humanism. During these units, we visit sacred religious places to consolidate our learning and help us consider what it is like to be a Muslim, Jew or Hindu in Britain today.

In Year 5, we visit a local **Mosque**. At the Mosque, we learn about the 5 pillars of Islam and how Muslims show these in action.

Every year, we enter **NATRE and Wakefield's Spirited Arts competition**. We all have the opportunity to apply our knowledge gained in art and our share our own beliefs to create a piece of artwork answering life's big questions. Last year, we entered in 'Where in God?'. We were really successful and our artwork was displayed in Wakefield cathedral.



In Year 4, we they visit a local **Synagogue** and learn all about special Jewish celebrations and the significance of the Torah.



In Year 3, we visit a local **Mandir temple** and we love seeing the Hindus shrines and learning about many God and Goddesses and how Hindus worship.

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We dig deeper and reflect on big questions in life and use the knowledge of different faiths to consider how a Christian, Jew, Hindu, Muslim or non-religious person might answer these important philosophical questions in order to build our own identify and beliefs.

For example, in year 6, we even interview a Christian and an atheist to help us develop our own response to, 'why some people think God exists?'

In addition to this, we use stories in assemblies to join in and share in the celebrations of many important religious festivals from the Islamic, Jewish and Hindu calendar in order to support our growing knowledge and understanding of these faiths.

