

RE at Feniton Primary School is taught in line with the Learning Objectives set out in the Devon Agreed Syllabus for RE. As a Church of England School, we aim to explore various World Religions, from a Christian perspective.

### **Other World Religions**

Because of the part of the country in which we live, it is possible that, at this stage in their lives, your children will not come across other world religions in any other area of their life. We believe that understanding plays a key part in accepting and respecting the views of people from other religions. For this reason, your child may well visit the places of worship of other religious groups during their time at Feniton. We would strongly encourage you to chat to your child about these visits, ask them questions of what surprised them in what they saw and challenge them to ask questions too. When you are visiting Exeter, other cities, or even other countries, pointing out or, if possible, visiting such places of worship would provide opportunity for you to increase your child's awareness and understanding of other world religions.

### **Windows, Mirrors and Doors**

We seek at Feniton to encourage your child's spiritual development. One of the key ways we approach this is by challenging them to notice, question and reason with the world around them. We do this using an approach called 'Windows, Mirrors and Doors'.

**Window moments**, also known as 'wow or ow' moments, are the moments in life that we look upon with awe and wonder. Perhaps a particularly spectacular view, the birth of a younger sibling, or the death of a beloved pet. They are the moments that cause us to look upon life in a new and different way. Encouraging your child to notice when they are experiencing a 'window' moment at home can help them to register the moments of their life which have particular meaning for them. It may be a moment that they want to keep private or they may then want to come and put it on the 'window' boards on display in each classroom.

**Mirror moments** are the times when we reflect upon our own lives and the world around us. For the children, these most often come as the 'big questions' they ask. Using 'mirror moments', as a vocabulary they are familiar with, can encourage your child not to be afraid of, or feel scared about, asking these questions. After your child has experienced a 'window moment', encourage them to reflect on the difference that moment might make to them or to think about the possible answers to their questions. Get them to ask any questions they might have. Don't be afraid of not knowing the answers...many of the 'mirror moment' questions on the displays at school remain unanswered- or the children change their minds about the answer the more they think about it!

**Door moments** are the moments of decision and action in life. The times when (often as a result of a mirror moment), we go out do something about our views, or else begin to express, apply and develop our views or convictions. Giving your child a means of

expressing their thoughts, whether through art, writing or just talking to them, will help to promote their sense of value and self worth. Sponsored events are a great time to encourage 'door moments' with your child by chatting to them about why they want to help out that charity.

### **Talking**

The most effective way for you to help your child in RE is to talk to them. Ask them what they have been learning and what they think about it. We don't have to know all of the answers. If the children ask a question you don't know the answer to, ask them what they think, research it together or encourage them to bring it in to school. The simple act of encouraging them to talk about RE and ask questions about it, will help them to develop, even if they don't find all of the answers!

### **Church**

As a Christian school, we promote a Christian ethos and Christianity is the primary religion taught during RE lessons. Taking your child along to a Sunday group at church is a great way of helping their understanding of Christianity. If you would like to know more yourself, please feel free to come in and chat to our RE co-ordinator, Ruth Clarke, or to Rev Cate and they can recommend a local Alpha or Christianity Explored course, where you can find out more.