

## The use of 'Big questions' in Religious Education

Alongside Religious Education (RE) content, we will also be teaching pupils different skills in listening, questioning, reasoning and explaining which are reinforced throughout the curriculum. Teachers are specially trained to use philosophy skills throughout the curriculum and we are continuing to develop this approach to teaching and learning across the school.

One of the main aims of our RE curriculum to develop pupils' 'ability to think theologically and engage in theological enquiry' (Making a difference? A Review of Religious Education in Church of England Schools National Society (2014)).

We aim to promote a knowledge and understanding of the response of faith to ultimate questions about human life, its origins and purpose. In RE we want to provide children with compelling learning experiences which demands a more active and engaging approach to learning where children solve something, investigate reasons for things rather than be the mere recipients of knowledge.

By giving the learning in RE direction through the use of key questions, to answer or solve, the curriculum is much more compelling, imaginative and challenging.

**Big questions**  
**Christian Values Cycle A**

	<i>Autumn 1 Respect</i>	<i>Autumn 2 Service</i>	<i>Spring 1 Perseverance</i>	<i>Spring 2 Hope</i>	<i>Summer 1 Compassion</i>	<i>Summer 2 Truthfulness</i>
<i>Reception</i>	<i>What should respect look like?</i>	<i>How many ways can you show that you care?</i>	<i>What does it mean to keep on going?</i>	<i>What is hope?</i>	<i>How can we show compassion?</i>	<i>Is telling the truth right?</i>
<i>Year 1</i>	<i>How might we show respect for each other?</i>	<i>How will your hands show that you care?</i>	<i>What helps you not to give up? Who helps you keep on going?</i>	<i>Can hopes be divided into 'big ones' and 'little ones'?</i>	<i>Can compassion occur between</i>	<i>Is it ok to tell a secret?</i>
<i>Year 2</i>	<i>Why is it important to look after our planet?</i>	<i>Who relies on me to act responsibly?</i>	<i>What's the hardest thing about sticking to a task?</i>	<i>Do you think most children hope for the same things in life, or that there is a wide range of children's hope?</i>	<i>Can kindness change the world?</i>	<i>Is it ok to tell a lie?</i>
<i>Year 3</i>	<i>Should we respect everyone?</i>	<i>Should giving to charity to be compulsory?</i>	<i>How can I encourage others today to keep trying?</i>	<i>Are you an optimist or a pessimist?</i>	<i>Is being compassionate ever a bad thing?</i>	<i>Do you always have to tell the truth?</i>
<i>Year 4</i>	<i>If you don't respect our planet, should you be punished?</i>	<i>Do we only show service because we 'have to'?</i>	<i>What causes some to thrive while others fail in the face of a challenge?</i>	<i>Does it make any difference to how you feel about yourself</i>	<i>Is someone born with a caring personality or is it learned?</i>	<i>Is it ever ok to tell a 'white lie'?</i>

				whether you are generally optimistic, or generally pessimistic?		
<i>Year 5</i>	Should you give respect to people who haven't earned it?	Do some charities/causes deserve more help than others?	Can you persevere if there's nothing to aim for?	Is being hopeful always a good thing?	What makes some people give everything for other people?	When should you tell the truth?
<i>Year 6</i>	Should we respect everyone all of the time?	Do famous people have a moral obligation to use their status to help others?	Is it more important to succeed but not try, or try your hardest and fail?	Do you have to be optimistic all of the time?	Do you have to share all of the time?	How can we be sure about anything?

*Big questions*  
*Christian Values Cycle B*

	<i>Autumn 1 Thankfulness</i>	<i>Autumn 2 Friendship</i>	<i>Spring 1 Trust</i>	<i>Spring 2 Forgiveness</i>	<i>Summer 1 Peace</i>	<i>Summer 2 Courage</i>
<i>Reception</i>	<i>How do we show thanks?</i>	<i>What makes a good friend?</i>	<i>What does trust mean?</i>	<i>What is forgiveness?</i>	<i>What is peace? What does it look/sound like?</i>	<i>What is courage? What does courage look like?</i>
<i>Year 1</i>	<i>What opportunities do I have that I am thankful for?</i>	<i>Is it good to have friends? Is it possible to have a bad friend?</i>	<i>Can you trust someone you don't know?</i>	<i>How do people show they are sorry?</i>	<i>What does it mean to live a good life?</i>	<i>What helps us take courage?</i>
<i>Year 2</i>	<i>Why should we be grateful people?</i>	<i>Is it possible to have a bad friend?</i>	<i>Can you trust your family?</i>	<i>Can it be wrong to forgive people?</i>	<i>Why do people get angry? How can they control this feeling?</i>	<i>Why do people do things that are dangerous?</i>
<i>Year 3</i>	<i>How can I be thankful for the challenges that I've experienced? What did I learn from them?</i>	<i>Should you ever abandon your friends?</i>	<i>Is it ever acceptable to disobey order or instructions?</i>	<i>Why should we be sorry?</i>	<i>Do we have to be alone to feel peaceful/at peace?</i>	<i>Can you be brave and scared at the same time?</i>
<i>Year 4</i>	<i>Do we only ever do something in</i>	<i>Would you rather have 100 'okay' friends or</i>	<i>Can others count on you?</i>	<i>Do we think it is possible to forgive someone</i>	<i>Do we need to be silent to show peace?</i>	<i>Is it ok to be scared?</i>

	<i>order to get thanks?</i>	<i>5 really good friends?</i>		<i>who isn't sorry?</i>		
<i>Year 5</i>	<i>What opportunities do I have that I am thankful for?</i>	<i>If you are not a good friend to others, do you have any friends?</i>	<i>Should you trust what you can't see?</i>	<i>Should we always forgive?</i>	<i>Why would God allow evil in our world?</i>	<i>Who is braver, someone who overcomes a fear or someone who does not fear?</i>
<i>Year 6</i>	<i>What have others done that has benefitted by life—even if I don't know who those people are?</i>	<i>Do you have to be friends with everyone all of the time?</i>	<i>Do you have to trust everyone?</i>	<i>Are the right punishments given for people's wrong actions?</i>	<i>Is world peace achievable?</i>	<i>If you perceive yourself as courageous, how has image played a supportive role?</i>