



## Religious Education

At Dent we believe that Religious Education is a vital aspect of our goal of ensuring that pupils are prepared to be well informed, active citizens who respectfully and thoughtfully engage with people of all backgrounds and faiths. In RE our pupils have the opportunity to ask big questions and consider fundamental issues from a broad range of perspectives. The children build an understanding of Christianity and other major religions through a variety of approaches and are encouraged to develop an enquiring attitude. RE teaching has two major emphases: learning *about* religions and *from* religions. This means that pupils grow in their factual knowledge and understanding as well as in their ability to explore and respond to different faiths.

As a Church of England school with strong connections to our local parish church we have a distinctly Christian character and our whole school ethos is based on Christian values, which are reflected across our curriculum, including in RE. Our RE lessons provide a positive environment for exploring and debating beliefs and worldviews. Children learn how to celebrate diversity and how to encounter new ideas with tolerance and respect. As a small village school our pupils are split into two mixed age classes. Class 1 is made up of Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. Class 2 (Key Stage 2) is Year 3 – Year 6.

### EYFS/KS1

In Reception and Key Stage 1 RE is taught with a cross-curricular focus and is always closely linked to the current topic. Circle-time, role-play and group discussions often provide the opportunities for children to reflect and explore ideas and faiths. Practical activities, concrete artefacts, engaging multimedia and visits are often the stimuli for thinking about and learning from different faiths. Children typically express their understanding and learning in RE through a range of creative processes, from writing through to painting and crafts. In Reception the teaching of RE is linked to all of the Learning Areas, but especially to the goals within *Communication & Language, Understanding the World* and *Personal, Social & Emotional Development*.

### KS2

In Key Stage 2 RE is again taught with a cross-curricular focus and there is an emphasis on reflective, enquiry based learning. Philosophy for Children approaches are often used, with an image, artefact or article as the starting point for small group or whole class discussion. Rich experiences, both of the local church and of visits to other religious places of worship, help the children to build a sense of awe and respect. Children use textbooks, the internet and other multimedia to investigate and develop an understanding of Christian beliefs and other world faiths. There is a strong comparative element to the learning and pupils are encouraged to make links between the beliefs of different religions and faiths, comparing similarities and differences. Children are encouraged to respond creatively to the ideas and values they encounter. This can be through presentations, written accounts, computerised animations, artwork etc. In Class 2 children reflect carefully on a wide-ranging variety of viewpoints, considering how to tolerantly embrace differences. They are given opportunities to reflect on what they might personally learn from religions and encouraged to develop a sense of their own spirituality.