

R.E. within the EYFS Environment

As a Church of England school, we are proud to have R.E. as a central part of our curriculum, reflected in our Mission Statement: 'When you have Faith, Respect, Courtesy and Endeavour, you are the light of the world'. In EYFS, we are using the 'Puddles and Freddie' Series of books by Books at Press, a resource supported by the Diocese of Chester and Understanding Christianity.

Books at Press describe the series aims as:

'to encourage teachers to explore with their pupils:

- *aspects of Christianity as a living faith*
- *the Christian teachings and beliefs behind the practices*
- *how these beliefs, teachings and practices relate to the children's own lives and experiences*
- *implicit moral, personal and social concepts associated with the explicit religious theme'*



The books introduce young children to important aspects of Christianity and are designed to capture the interest and imagination of children through the adventures of the mischievous cat, Puddles. Every story in the series focuses on a different aspect of the Christian faith (Harvest, Easter, Christmas, Marriage, Baptism, Helping Others, St Francis Service).

Each half-term, we are covering one book in the series and building on the original story through a range of craft and other activities. This is particularly important within EYFS as our practical approach to all our learning underpins our whole ethos and helps to embed the theoretical concepts. As well as actually reading the book, the whole classroom environment is set up to link to the key theme of the story. This will be extended into all areas of teaching, such as creative, maths and role play, so that the concepts are truly embedded. Through these activities, we will also develop the children's understanding of the school's core values of faith, respect, courtesy and endeavour. Over the course of the year, pupils will develop a strong foundation with regards to a number of important concepts relating to Christianity the will aid future learning and understanding higher up the school as well as promoting British Values.

Our R.E. programme also includes introduction to collective worship through the singing of action based worship songs, such as 'My Lighthouse' and morning reflection, encouraging the children to think about how they can shine God's love out in that day and become disciples. We conclude each day with an end of day prayer.