

MVFS Cultures and Communities Curriculum

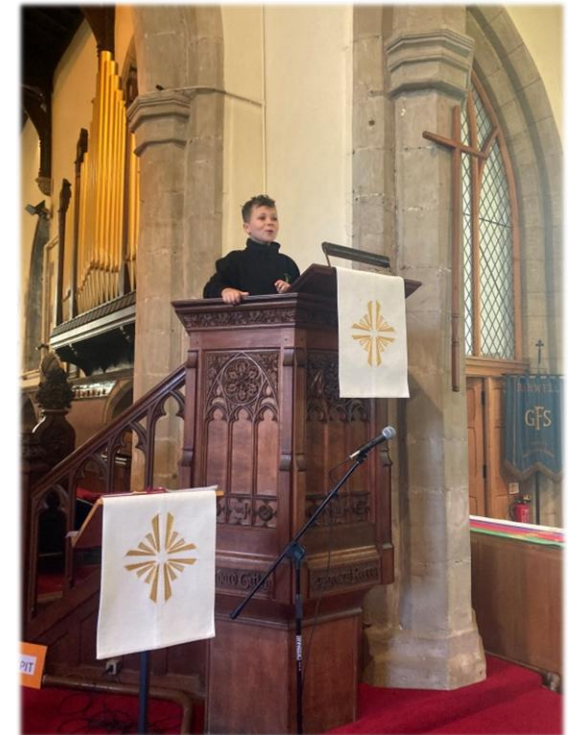
Intent

At MVFS we are passionate about and committed to establishing and promoting understanding, acceptance and kindness in everything that we do. As such, we have carefully created a Cultures and Communities curriculum that follows our ethos and works hand-in-hand with our school drivers and our PSHE curriculum. This approach enables us to introduce our children to a range of cultures, faiths and beliefs in a way that makes unfamiliar and abstract ideas more relatable for them; and highlights the presence and positive contribution of different groups within our local and national communities.

We agree with the Leicestershire Agreed Syllabus for RE that religious education contributes dynamically to children's development by raising questions about beliefs and practices, and exploring the notions of right and wrong. Our bespoke Cultures and Communities curriculum exposes our children to a range of faiths and customs in a respectful and sensitive way; and encourages them to consider how beliefs can affect the choices that people make, and the way that they live their lives.

Our Key Aims: At MVFS, we strive to...

- promote a culture of acceptance, so that our children develop an understanding and appreciation of the diverse range of cultures, faiths and beliefs represented within modern Britain.
- provide a safe space in which our children can respectfully wonder aloud and ask questions about people whose lives appear different to their own; so that they can develop their understanding.
- encourage our children to approach unfamiliar customs, beliefs and practices with sensitivity and respectful curiosity; rather than fear or judgement.
- empower our children to recognise prejudice and discrimination – knowing that these are not acceptable; and have the confidence to flag or challenge offensive views, language and actions.
- create a safe space in which our children can reflect on their own beliefs and way of life, as part of their developing sense of self; secure in the knowledge that their right to follow a faith (or to choose not to) is protected by law in this country.
- empower our children with the knowledge and understanding needed to live harmoniously and successfully within a multicultural and multi-faith society.



Implementation

Our Cultures and Communities curriculum is carefully sequenced and interconnected, and enables our children to develop their knowledge and understanding of cultures, faiths and beliefs (in local, national and global contexts) as they move through our school. Each week, the children take part in whole school and stage/class assemblies which introduce them to an idea or event, and paves the way for further learning and discussion in class. The themes of exploring, understanding and respecting diverse cultures and beliefs is also taught as part of our PSHE curriculum, through units such as Diverse Britain and Be Yourself.

As with all areas of our curriculum, it is important to remember that all of our children have significant gaps in their learning due to the experiences that have brought them to MVFS – indeed, all of our children have not been able to access the full curriculum for at least a year before joining us. As explained in our Curriculum Policy, this means that many of our children are working at a level below their chronological age whilst we support them to re-engage with education and enjoy high levels of interest and success, which help them to rebuild self-esteem and start to value their social and academic achievements.

Stage One:

- In Stage One, we encourage our children to look for similarities and differences between faiths and cultures; and begin to instil a strong sense of respect and acceptance for people whose beliefs and practices are different to their own. We also encourage our children to reflect on their own culture and beliefs, and they are supported to communicate these confidently in different ways.

Stage Two:

- In Stage Two, children build upon their existing knowledge of how different cultures and communities live; and start to consider how festivals, family life and worship show what is important to different groups. At this stage our children also begin to recognise the multi-cultural and multi-faith communities which happily co-exist locally; i.e. by engaging in activities connected to the Diwali celebrations in Leicester (the biggest celebrations outside of India).

Stage Three:

- Stage Three builds securely on the previous stages. Through continued learning, our children deepen their understanding of the cultures and religions that they have studied so far; and continue to develop and use the skills needed to explore and interpret new ideas, practices and opinions. At this stage, our children are also able to contemplate and discuss thematic questions such as *“How does faith help people when life gets hard?”*






In order for our children to know more and remember more, prior learning is always considered; and opportunities for the revision of facts and understanding are built into assemblies and activities across the year. Through revisiting and consolidating knowledge, our approach also helps our children to check and deepen their understanding as we introduce new ideas for them to consider and explore.





Impact





Through our bespoke approach and quality first teaching, we will see the impact of this subject in different ways. Our children will be engaged in assemblies and discussions about a wide range of cultures and religions, and will want to find out more. They will be able to talk about and demonstrate the knowledge, understanding and vocabulary that they have acquired; and will show increasing levels of careful reflection when exploring, discussing and giving opinions.

Evidence collected will show that a range of topics are being covered, and that our carefully sequenced and inter-connected approach to learning is enabling our children to develop a meaningful sense of the people, customs and beliefs studied. Ultimately, our children will develop the knowledge and skills to participate positively in our multi-cultural and multi-faith society; whilst having the confidence to explore and articulate their personal beliefs clearly and coherently (while respecting the right of others to hold different views).







































Key to MVFS Assembly Schedule Coverage:

Religious Focus	
	Christianity
	Judaism
	Islam
	Hinduism
	Sikhism

British Values	
	Democracy
	Rule of Law
	Individual Liberty
	Tolerance of all Faiths

MVFS Drivers	
	Being Connected
	Raising Aspirations
	Overcoming Adversity
	Caring for Our Environment


























MVFS Cultures and Communities Whole School Assembly Schedule: Autumn 1, 2025

Week beginning	Focus	Religious Focus	British Values	MVFS Drivers
26 th August	Welcome back, it's great to see you!		 	   
1 st September	Zero Waste Week (1 st – 7 th September)			 
8 th September	School Council – Your voice matters		 	   
15 th September	International Day of Democracy (15 th September)		   	  
22 nd September	Rosh Hashanah (22 nd - 24 th September)			
29 th September	Harvest Festival (Sunday 5 th October)			 
6 th October	Black History Month – Rosa Parks		  	  
13 th October	ADHD Awareness Month			  

MVFS Cultures and Communities Stage/Class Assembly Schedule: Autumn 1, 2025

Week beginning	Focus	Religious Focus	British Values	MVFS Drivers
26 th August	Welcome back: How can we help people who are new to MVFS?			
1 st September	Zero Waste Week – What shall we do? (1 st – 7 th September)			
8 th September	School Council – Your voice matters			
15 th September	World Gratitude Day (21 st September)			
22 nd September	World Sign Language Day (23 rd September)			
29 th September	Yom Kippur – Saying Sorry (1 st October)			
6 th October	Dyslexia Awareness Week (6 th – 12 th October)			
13 th October	Sukkot (6 th – 13 th October)			










MVFS Cultures and Communities Whole School Assembly Schedule: Autumn 2, 2025

Week beginning	Focus	Religious Focus	British Values	MVFS Drivers
3 rd November	Diwali (20 th October – During Half Term)	ॐ 		
10 th November	Anti-Bullying Week (10 th – 14 th November)		 	 
17 th November	Children in Need (15 th November)			 
24 th November	Brain Development & Regulation #1			 
1 st December	Advent – What is Advent? (30 th November – 24 th December)			
8 th December	Human Rights Day (10 th December)		   	  
15 th December	Hannukah (14 th – 22 nd December)			 



MVFS Cultures and Communities Stage/Class Assembly Schedule: Autumn 2, 2025

Week beginning	Focus	Religious Focus	British Values	MVFS Drivers
3 rd November	Bonfire Night		  	
10 th November	Remembrance (11 th November)			 
17 th November	Giving to Charity			
24 th November	Saint Andrew's Day (30 th November)			 
1 st December	Advent – Kindness Calendar (30 th November – 24 th December)			
8 th December	Bodhi Day (8 th December)			 
15 th December	Christmas Around the World			


















MVFS Cultures and Communities Whole School Assembly Schedule: Spring 1, 2026

Week beginning	Focus	Religious Focus	British Values	MVFS Drivers
5 th January	New Year Resolutions – The Snowdrop			
12 th January	Brain Development & Regulation #2			
19 th January	Martin Luther King Jnr Day (19 th January)			
26 th January	Tu Bishvat (1 st February)			
2 nd February	Children’s Mental Health Week (9 th – 15 th February)			
9 th February	Safer Internet Day (10 th February)			













MVFS Cultures and Communities Stage/Class Assembly Schedule: Spring 1, 2026

Week beginning	Focus	Religious Focus	British Values	MVFS Drivers
5 th January	Epiphany (6 th January)			
12 th January	Brain Development & Regulation #2			
19 th January	RSPB Big School Birdwatch (23 rd January)			 
26 th January	Burns Night (25 th January)			
2 nd February	Children's Mental Health Week (9 th – 15 th February)			  
9 th February	Safer Internet Day (10 th February)		 	 























MVFS Cultures and Communities Whole School Assembly Schedule: Spring 2, 2026

Week beginning	Focus	Religious Focus	British Values	MVFS Drivers
23 rd February	Lent (18 th February – 2 nd April)			 
2 nd March	Ramadan (17 th February – 18 th March)			
9 th March	International Women's Day (8 th March)		 	  
16 th March	Eid Al Fitr (20 th March)			
23 rd March	Epilepsy Awareness Day (26 th March)			 

















MVFS Cultures and Communities Stage/Class Assembly Schedule: Spring 2, 2026

Week beginning	Focus	Religious Focus	British Values	MVFS Drivers
23 rd February	Look at March's Kindness Calendar			
2 nd March	Holi (4 th March)	 		  
9 th March	Brain Awareness Week (9 th – 15 th March)			  
16 th March	Saint Patrick's Day (17 th March)			
23 rd March	Palm Sunday (29 th March)			 






















MVFS Cultures and Communities Whole School Assembly Schedule: Summer 1, 2026

Week beginning	Focus	Religious Focus	British Values	MVFS Drivers
13 th April	Passover – The Ten Commandments (1 st – 9 th April)			 
20 th April	Earth Day (22 nd April)			 
27 th April	Brain Development & Regulation #3			 
4 th May	National Smile Month			
11 th May	International Nurses Day (12 th May)			  
18 th May	World Day for Cultural Diversity (21 st May)	    	  	

MVFS Cultures and Communities Stage/Class Assembly Schedule: Summer 1, 2026

Week beginning	Focus	Religious Focus	British Values	MVFS Drivers
13 th April	Vaisakhi (14 th April)			
20 th April	Saint George's Day (23 rd April)		 	 
27 th April	Brain Development & Regulation #3			 
4 th May	World Asthma Awareness Day (6 th May)			 
11 th May	International Day of Families (15 th May 2026)			  
18 th May	World Bee Day (20 th May)			

MVFS Cultures and Communities Whole School Assembly Schedule: Summer 2, 2026

Week beginning	Focus	Religious Focus	British Values	MVFS Drivers
1 st June	Hajj – The Pillars of Islam (24 th – 29 th May)			
8 th June	World Empathy Day (12 th June)			  
15 th June	World Refugee Day (20 th June)		 	 
22 nd June	Windrush Day (22 nd June)		 	 
29 th June	Getting Ready to Move On			  
6 th July	Celebrating Our Year Together!			  

MVFS Cultures and Communities Stage/Class Assembly Schedule: Summer 2, 2026

Week beginning	Focus	Religious Focus	British Values	MVFS Drivers
1 st June	Pride Month			
8 th June	World Oceans Day (8 th June)			
15 th June	Summer Solstice (21 st June)			
22 nd June	World Wellbeing Week (23 rd – 29 th June)			
29 th June	Getting Ready to Move On			
6 th July	Celebrating Our Year Together!			