

The Academy is committed to excellent Safeguarding

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY**

Policy date: February 2010    Last updated: September 2023

Review date: September 2025

Portfolio group responsible: Vision and Ethos

SLT responsible: SIAMS Lead (Mr J Matthews)

## **Aims and Values**

We serve and support our community providing a child-centred education that reflects Christian values. Respecting the dignity and potential of each individual person and sensitive to the needs of a diverse society, we strive to enhance and strengthen our values:

- Hope
- Kindness
- Courage
- Integrity
- Trust
- Respect
- Responsibility
- Resilience

These values are central to our school.

We are committed to the highest standards of academic excellence; we are dedicated to providing the best possible education for all our students by developing the knowledge, understanding and skills essential for learning and leading a fulfilled life.

### **There are four main purposes to this policy:**

- to establish an entitlement for all pupils
- to establish expectations for teachers of this subject
- to promote continuity and coherence across the school
- to state the school's approaches to this subject in order to promote public, and particularly parent's and carer's, understanding of the RE curriculum.

## **Introduction**

### ***The importance of religious education to the curriculum***

It is the legal entitlement of all students to receive Religious Education in their Core Curriculum.

The Academy is committed to meeting in full the National Society's Statement of Entitlement for Religious Education in ensuring that the teaching and learning of Religious Education is treated with the importance and delivered with the excellence it deserves. The aims of Religious Education at The Ilfracombe Academy are those of the Devon Agreed Syllabus - i.e. to contribute to the pupil's development of their own beliefs and values, and to bring students to a knowledge and understanding of Religion. Religious Education at Ilfracombe is open to students of all beliefs and none. It does not aim to advocate any religious stance, but to encourage students to learn both from and about religion.

Religion and worldviews have always shaped individuals, cultures and societies. The role of Religious Education is to provide opportunities for pupils to study and reflect on the beliefs and practices on which people base their lives so that respect for those with religious and other beliefs is well founded. It promotes attitudes and values necessary for responsible citizenship in a democratic and pluralistic society.

Religious Education provides pupils with opportunities to reflect upon human experiences that give rise to fundamental questions of life and death and to consider values and commitments. It provides opportunity to study Christianity and a range of worldviews. The subject contributes to the development of the pupils' own beliefs and values and their sense of identity. It does not promote a particular religion or particular set of beliefs. This kind of nurturing is the privilege of the home and faith communities to which pupils belong. The Religious Education taught in our school is based on Devon's current Agreed Syllabus.

### **The aims of religious education and how these contribute to the school's aims**

The school aims to:

- encourage a reflective approach to living;
- enable the pupils to gain knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other worldviews.
- provide pupils with opportunities to reflect on their experiences of life.
- contribute to the development of their own beliefs and values.

In addition to these aims, we expect pupils to develop attitudes such as a willingness to explore the religious and spiritual experiences of humanity and a commitment to searching with an open mind.

### **Entitlement and curriculum provision**

- Every student in Key Stage 3 receives 2 hours of PCRE (Personal, Careers and Religious Education) per week, mostly with specialist staff. This includes their entitlement to religious education for at least 5% of curriculum time.
- Religious Education at both key stages is combined with themes from Citizenship, personal, health and sex and relationships education, and careers into one seamless

course. This enables a more specialist approach to teaching sensitive issues, and a focus on the moral principles underlying these areas.

- Key Stage 3 and 4 students follow schemes of work based on Devon's agreed syllabus for Religious Education, and government guidance for PSHE which supports the RSE policy 2020.
- All Key stage 4 students receive 1 hour per week of core PCRE.
- Students who have opted for GCSE study for the GCSE Edexcel Spec B Religious Studies Qualification.
- In the sixth form, Religious Studies is offered at A level, via the Philosophy and Ethics course.
- All students are given the opportunity to study both Christianity as the majority study, and a selection of the main religious traditions and worldviews represented in Britain today, including the secular approach to many moral issues.
- Parents have the legal right to withdraw their child from RE and the sex education element of RSE. This needs to be by arrangement with the Headteacher in consultation with the Head of Religious Education.

### **Teaching and learning**

- Detailed schemes of work are in place for every year group. These give guidance to teachers, provide a wide range of resources and teaching and learning activities.
- Pupils are provided with as much first-hand experience of the principal religions as possible and artefacts and authentic resources are used wherever possible.
- Where religious artefacts are used, they are treated with the respect they would be given if they were being used in their actual setting for worship.
- When teaching religious education, the school does not seek commitment by the pupils to a particular religion. Teachers do not assume that pupils are members of any faith community.
- Sacred literature is treated with respect.
- The experiences and views that pupils bring from home and faith communities are always valued.
- Students are encouraged to develop their own views and opinions whilst respecting those of others.
- Visitors are used wherever possible to give a personal view of what it is like to be an active part of a faith community.

## **Assessment and recording**

- Assessments are based on the statements in the Agreed Syllabus
- Work in religious education is assessed in accordance with the school marking, assessment and recording policies.

## ***Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development***

Religious education makes a particularly strong contribution to pupils' spiritual development. The scheme of work identifies opportunities for pupils to explore their own feelings and beliefs, to study the beliefs and values of others, to empathise with others, to ask critical questions and explore the responses from the faith communities.

## ***Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)***

At The Ilfracombe Academy, PSHE is taught within PCRE (Personal, Careers and Religious Education) by specialist Religious Education teachers as part of a whole school approach. There are links with PSHE when religious education explores belonging, community and identity. This includes the statutory RSHE element of PSHE. Those areas developing a respect for the beliefs and values of others also make a major contribution.

## **Review**

This policy will be reviewed in line with the school's policy review programme. The subject leader is responsible for reporting to the governors about the quality of its implementation and its impact on standards. In the light of this, policy amendments may be made.

**POLICY HISTORY**

Policy / Version Date	Summary of change	Contact	Implementation Date	Review Date
February 2010	Policy is linked with 'Devon agreed syllabus'	Judith Larrington	Feb 2010	Mar 2014
May 2014	Updates linked to Academy / Church status	Judith Larrington	LGB adopted March 2015	Mar 2017
January 2017	Updated by senior staff – minor amendments	Judith Larrington	January 2017	July 2017
February 2020	Updated by HoD	Zoe Bullamore	Mar 2020	Mar 2023
February 2023	Updated by Senior Leader – minor changes	Joe Matthews	February 2023	February 2026
September 2023	Updated by Senior Leader – minor changes	Joe Matthews	September 2023	September 2025