

**Religious Education**

Religious Education should enable every child to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10). It will help educate for dignity and respect encouraging all to live well together

*Such an approach is offered through a commitment to generous hospitality, being true to*

*our underpinning faith, but with a deep respect for the integrity of other religious traditions (and worldviews) and for the religious freedom of each person.*

*(Religious Education Statement of Entitlement February 2019)*

**Introduction:**

This policy is intended to assist staff and pupils in developing a knowledge and understanding of Religious Education and is set within the context of the Church of England Vision for Education, the Church of England Statement of Entitlement for Religious Education and the school’s theologically rooted vision and associated Christian values.

In line with the statement of intent, the purpose of RE at Bishop Stopford’s School is to provide all students with:

* a deep understanding of Christianity
* a broader understanding of religion and faith through a focus on the other main world religions
* knowledge of Christianity and 5 other world religions that is underpinned by a conceptual understanding of religion with a focus on:
  + theology – religious foundations/beliefs/teachings/scripture/practices
  + philosophy – consideration of existential questions/spiritual focus – why are we here?  What happens when we die?  How do we lead a good life?  Who guides us and protects us?
  + Social Science – religion’s response and impact on social and ethical issues
* the ability to recognise, understand and respect diversity
* the opportunity to ask questions, explore ideas, reflect – developing inquisitive learners
* the opportunity to express ways of seeing, believing, thinking and belonging in a safe and structured way

**What is RE?**

RE is a core academic subject in church schools that enables pupils to develop their knowledge and understanding of religions and worldviews, recognising their local, national and global contexts. The subject provides all pupils with the opportunity to ask questions and begin to express their own views in response to the material they learn about and in response to questions about their ideas.

Taken from the Religious Education in Church of England Schools - A Statement of Entitlement, the aims and objectives of Religious Education in Church schools are:

• To know about and understand Christianity as a diverse global living faith through the exploration of core beliefs using an approach that critically engages with biblical text.

• To gain knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews appreciating diversity, continuity and change within the religions and worldviews being studied.

• To engage with challenging questions of meaning and purpose raised by human existence and experience.

• To recognise the concept of religion and its continuing influence on Britain’s cultural heritage and in the lives of individuals and societies in different times, cultures and places.

• To explore their own religious, spiritual and philosophical ways of living, believing and thinking.

**Curriculum balance and time:**

Reflecting the school’s trust deed parents and pupils at Bishop Stopford’s School are entitled to expect that Christianity should be the majority religion studied in each year group and should be at least 50% of curriculum time. Sufficient dedicated curriculum time, meeting explicitly RE objectives, however organised, should be committed to the delivery of RE. This should aim to be close to 10% but must be no less than 5% in key stages 1-4.

**RE provision**

* All students at KS3 and KS4 study RE as part of their timetabled curriculum, this equates to 6% of their timetable at KS3 and 8% of their timetable at KS4
* A level Religion and Philosophy is offered at KS5
* Students at KS5 engage with a Core Rs programme delivered through a series of drop down days

**The Curriculum**

* Christianity equates to 50% of the KS3 and KS4 curriculum
* 5 other main world religions are also incorporated within the curriculum
* The curriculum is sequenced to ensure that it deepens students’ knowledge and understanding of Christianity and the other world religions over time
* The core concepts of theology, philosophy and social science underpin all aspects of the curriculum, ensuring that students are able to make links in their learning and develop as deeper thinkers about religion, its place in society and its role for individuals

**Legal requirements:**

Religious Education must be provided for all registered pupils in full time education except those withdrawn at their parents’ request (or their own request if aged 18 or over).

*(DfE Circular 1 / 94, paragraphs 44 & 49, and Non-Statutory Guidance 2010 page 28)*

The school must comply with any request from a parent to withdraw their child and parents are not required to give their reasons for wanting to do so. However, in view of the distinctively Christian vision of the school, we would hope that all children admitted will participate fully in RE, and that anyone wishing to withdraw their child would discuss this with the Headteacher before making this decision.

[***https://ldbs.co.uk/strand-7-effectiveness-religious-education/***](https://ldbs.co.uk/strand-7-effectiveness-religious-education/)