



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

**The Deanery Church of England High
School**

November 2023

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Author:	Headteacher
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The Liverpool Diocese Board of Education issued their document: "Framework for RE in Church of England Schools" in 2013. The Deanery Church of England High School uses this with the Diocesan document "Building on Firm Foundations" from the Education Review Group to develop our own curriculum and schemes of learning, fulfilling the Statement of Entitlement for RE, issued by the Church of England Education Office (2019). Our curriculum draws material from "Understanding Christianity", "Illuminating Pathways" and the Wigan Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education. All KS4 pupils' study for the AQA GCSE Religious Studies course.

Preface

The Deanery Church of England High School, in accordance with Christian principles and values, aims to serve our community by providing an education of the highest quality. We strive to ensure excellence for all is a reality, promoting the growth of wisdom and learning. As a Church of England School, we aim to develop Christian values such as faith, hope, love, wisdom, courage and integrity. We value the uniqueness of each individual and support the development of a rich and fulfilling spiritual life for all of our community. We aim to develop self-esteem, model conflict resolution, and are committed to justice and compassion. Mutual respect and trust are central to our community, and we expect high standards in all aspects of school life. This policy and its associated procedures are based on these key principles and values.

Religious Education at The Deanery Church of England High School

Religious Education at The Deanery Church of England High School reflects the School Vision Statement and plays a vital role in supporting the development of moral values and spiritual ethos, in accordance with Christian principles and values. We seek to promote an open and honest approach to the beliefs which exist in the modern world. The spiritual lives of our pupils are taken seriously; RE and the Deanery aims to help prepare pupils for the very complex moral issues they will have to face as responsible adults in a rapidly changing world.

The legal position of Religious Education in the curriculum

The legal requirements for teaching Religious Education are set out in the Education Act 1996 and the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. Religious Education is a statutory subject, which is an entitlement for all pupils. As a Church of England High School, the content of the Religious Education curriculum reflects our Christian ethos.

The aims of Religious Education at The Deanery Church of England School

- To enable pupils to encounter Christianity as the religion that shaped British culture and heritage and influences the lives of millions of people today.
- To enable pupils to learn about the other major religions, their impact on culture and politics, art and history, and on the lives of their adherents.
- To develop an understanding of religious faith as the search for and expression of truth.
- To contribute to the development of pupils' own spiritual/philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own faith and beliefs.
- To provoke challenging questions.
- To enable pupils to build their sense of identity and belonging.
- To teach pupils to develop respect for others.
- To prompt pupils to consider their responsibilities as citizens.

Teaching of Religious Education

RE teaching will be in line with the recommendations of the Statement of Entitlement for Church Schools. Christianity will, therefore, be the majority study in RE, as understanding Christianity as a living religion is the foundation of Religious Education in church schools. This will draw upon the richness and diversity of Christian experience in the breadth of its Anglican and other denominational forms, and in the variety of worldwide forms. The encounter will be an open one, which stems from and instils respect for different views and interpretations, and in which real dialogue and education takes place. Church schools have a duty to foster an accurate and increasing understanding of world religions and world views. As a result, pupils will gain greater insight into the world in which they are growing up. They will also be able to appreciate the faith of others, and develop a deeper understanding of their beliefs and practices. These outcomes must contribute to harmonious relationships within and between communities, promoting social inclusion and combating prejudice.

Skills

Religious Education teaching seeks to develop the following skills:

- Sound judgement in moral and ethical questions

- Reflection, interpretation, synthesis and analysis
- Empathy, investigation and enquiry evaluation
- Discussion and debate
- Factual knowledge and understanding of our own and others' faith

Assessment and Recording of RE

This will be conducted in line with the whole school procedures on assessment recording and reporting.

Outcomes

The planned outcomes for pupils by the end of Year 11 are that they are able to:

- Think theologically and explore ultimate questions.
- Reflect critically on the truth claims of Christian belief.
- Develop the skills to analyse, interpret and apply Bible text.
- Recognise that faith is a particular way of understanding and responding to God and the world.
- Analyse and explain the varied nature and traditions of the Christian community.
- Make a well-informed response to Christianity.
- Respect those of all faiths in their search for God.
- Reflect critically on areas of shared belief and practice between different faiths.
- Enrich and expand their understanding of truth.
- Reflect critically and express their views on the human quest and destiny.

Contribution to SMSC Development

Religious Education plays an important part of the wider programme of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development:

- **Spiritual** - widening pupils' vision of themselves and their own experience, within the context of a growing awareness and understanding of God.
- **Moral** - helping each pupil develop their own informed values.
- **Social** - helping pupils understand some major forces shaping the values in our society.
- **Cultural** - aiding pupils in exploring aspects of their own cultural heritage, and in developing positive attitudes towards diversity.

Additional links will be found across the curriculum, especially within PSHE, assemblies, collective worship and registration form activities. Religious Education also makes a positive contribution to enhancing creativity and enjoyment, and the well-being of all pupils.

Right of Withdrawal

Parents have the right to request that their child is withdrawn from Religious Education. However, in view of the religious foundation of the school, the Governors would be extremely concerned if any parent expressed this wish. Any parent who does wish to exercise the right to withdraw their child from Religious Education should contact the Headteacher.

The school feels that it is extremely important, that all pupils, including those of other faiths, feel that they belong to our Christian ethos at The Deanery Church of England High School.