

Religious Education Statement

The aim of our RE provision is to support our pupils to develop an understanding of religious and non-religious world views through their teaching and traditions, and gain insight into the lives of their followers. We approach this through our PSHE curriculum and in our wider curriculum, which is strongly focused on personal and social development.

Our core PSHE curriculum comprises of 6 units, each focusing on related ideas. Each unit runs across all year groups, so that knowledge and understanding are developed as pupils return to the same themes as they move through the academy. One unit explores personal identity and the factors (including religious and non-religious beliefs) that influence sense of self. A second unit explores differences between people, including religious and non-religious beliefs. This unit includes examples of individuals and their experiences and actions related to belief, and also at societal issues such as multiculturalism, prejudice and discrimination.

In addition to the core PSHE curriculum, our wider offer includes activities related to individuals, festivals and other events so that pupils can further explore the history, values and traditions of different religions. For example, introducing students to major faiths through celebrations and festivals. Christianity is explored through Christmas and Easter, with activities such as quizzes, gift-giving, art projects like Easter beads and Christmas stockings, and cooking festive foods such as chocolate logs and Easter egg blondies. Students also learn about Judaism through Hanukkah, Islam through Eid with halal food practices, and Hinduism through Diwali. World Religion Day provides an opportunity to compare beliefs and traditions, promoting understanding and respect for cultural diversity.

Historical and social contexts of religion are integrated into the Humanities curriculum. Students examine how faith was used to justify accusations of witchcraft in early 17th-century England. They also study the Holocaust to understand the consequences of religious discrimination and how prejudice was often justified through religion. These lessons foster critical thinking about morality, societal norms, and the misuse of faith in historical events.

English, Art, and Cooking classes further reinforce religious understanding through practical and creative activities. In English, students explore Christianity and Buddhism in *A Christmas Carol*, analyzing the shift from Paganism to Christian festivals and traditions, as well as religious themes in poetry. Art focuses on creating works linked to Christian traditions, while cooking connects students to faith through festive foods, such as halal dishes for Eid and seasonal treats for Christmas and Easter. At every point, religious significance and cultural facts are discussed, ensuring students gain a holistic understanding of how religion shapes history, literature, art, and daily life.

This provision also provides the opportunity to consider wider moral and ethical issues for example equality, Human Rights, euthanasia, freedom of speech v hate speech, cultural relativism, religious freedom and fake news.