



**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY
FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS WITHIN
QUEST**

University Collegiate School



May 2021

Introduction

Religious education enables students to investigate and reflect on some of the most fundamental questions asked by people. At University Collegiate School we enable students to develop a sound knowledge not only of Christianity but also of other world religions. Students reflect on what it means to have a faith and to develop their own spiritual knowledge and understanding. They develop their sense of identity and belonging, preparing them for life as citizens in a multicultural society.

R.E. and the National Curriculum

Religious Education is a statutory subject with a non-statutory programme of study. In KS3 we use the Bolton Agreed Syllabus 2020-2025, and in KS4 we use the AQA short course GCSE specification

Aims

In Religious Education at our school we aim to help students:

- Develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other major world religions and value systems found in Britain;
- Explore their own beliefs in the light of what they learn and to express their responses;
- Develop a positive attitude towards other people respecting their right to hold different beliefs from their own, and towards living in a society of diverse religions;
- Enhance their spiritual, moral, cultural and social development and develop investigative and research skills to enable them to make reasoned judgements about religious issues;
- Develop strong moral values to ensure our pupils become responsible citizens in our community.

The Trust states R.E. does not seek to urge religious beliefs on pupils nor compromise the integrity of their own beliefs by promoting one religion/faith/belief over another or indeed those of none.

The Trust regards RE as a strand of a broad and balance education for all students, preparing them to be aware of the diversity of the world, the range of faiths and those with none.

Teaching of R.E.

A number of approaches are useful in R.E. including story, role-play and drama, studying artefacts, research, ICT, arts, crafts, discussion, bringing visitors into school and visiting places of worship and religious significance.

Special Educational Needs and Differentiation

The individual education plans for students with special educational needs must be taken into account when planning R.E. to ensure that individual needs are met. Differentiation for these children and others in the class may be by:

1. *outcome* – where the tasks set allow different outcomes across the full range of abilities within the class
2. *task* – differentiated tasks are set which allow the various children/groups to achieve the same learning objective
3. *support* – the teacher gives differing time and resources or explains things using different language to enable children to achieve objectives.

Equality of Opportunity

Two of the main aims of RE at University Collegiate School are:

1. To encourage self respect and respect for others. To achieve this aim it is essential for staff, students and visitors to give individuals the opportunity to express their own ideas and opinions, listen respectfully and challenge through discussion in a sensitive/supportive manner.
2. To enable students to make informed choices.
The content of the curriculum gives significant opportunities to explore a range of beliefs, values and traditions including roles and responsibilities. It is important that all cultures are presented

and discussed in respectful ways to avoid stereotyping and to prepare children for life as future citizens with an awareness of individuals of specific faiths and indeed those of none.

Assessment

Students in KS3 are regularly assessed to track whether they are Developing, Securing or Excelling in their RE knowledge, skills and understanding. KS4 follow the relevant GCSE gradings.

Monitoring and Review

The RE.subject leader is responsible for monitoring the standards of the children's work and the quality of the teaching in religious education. They are also responsible for supporting colleagues in the teaching of religious education, for being informed about current developments in the subject and for providing a strategic lead and direction for the subject in the school.

Right of withdrawal

Parents (or students who are over 18) have the right to withdraw their children either partly or wholly from RE. In addition, teachers have the right not to teach the subject. Our approach to RE, however, has been constructed in the hope that parents and teachers will rarely, if ever, wish to exercise their right of withdrawal.

Liaison

The school and community work closely together whenever possible. We share our talents with the community as often as possible, through scheduled events and by welcoming members of all faiths and cultures to bring our learning to life.

This policy has been reviewed with due regard to the Equality Act 2010 during the Summer Term 2021 and Directors are aware of its contents.

Signed

S. Bruton

CEO