



DROYLSDEN
Academy

Religious Studies Policy

The aim of the Religious Studies element of the curriculum is to offer students the opportunity to become informed, confident, caring and tolerant young citizens. Students will be taught Religious Studies in discrete lessons in KS3 (one hour a week with the addition of homework) and as an optional subject at KS4 GCSE. Droylsden Academy offers a curriculum which is balanced and broadly based, and which:

- promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of students; and
- prepares students at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

As there is no National Curriculum for Religious Studies we follow a curriculum that is determined by the local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE), which is responsible for producing the locally agreed syllabus for RE. We use Manchester, Salford, Stockport, Tameside and Trafford Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education (2022-2027).

1. **Intended Outcome:**

Every student will:

- Develop a knowledge and understanding of the principal religious traditions represented in modern British society and the impact they have on our local community and wider society
- Develop respect acceptance and understanding for religious traditions, beliefs and practice
- Grow in their spiritual development and understand how their choices and actions have consequences
- Develop a sense of awe, wonder and mystery
- Develop skills and attitudes which underpin their personal, social, moral and cultural development
- Explore questions of meaning and consider how the world's religions have interpreted them
- Have opportunities to explore their own beliefs and values in the light of the beliefs of others, both religious and non-religious, and the values of the Academy community
- Develop their use of hermeneutics with regards to religious and philosophical texts and apply to issues in our 21st Century multicultural Britain

Religious Studies lessons will be taught using a variety of teaching methods including discussion, group work, the use of artefacts, the development of thinking skills, pictures, stories and the use of periods of quiet reflection. Where possible, students have opportunities to encounter local faith communities either through visits or through visiting speakers.

Droylsden Academy is an inclusive community but recognises that parents have the legal right to withdraw their child from the teaching of Religious Education.

2. **Pastoral Time:**

The Pastoral Programme is delivered during tutorial time and will provide opportunities for students to consider, debate and reflect on spiritual, cultural, social, political and moral issues. An act of reflection will take place during the weekly assembly and will be incorporated within the pastoral time weekly activities. The corresponding activities for Pastoral Time will be shaped by the following principles:

- Pastoral Time should be appropriate for all students whatever their religious beliefs or commitments

Review Cycle: Three Years

Next Review Date: June 2027

Person Responsible: Deputy Headteacher

Approving Body: Local Governing Body

- Pastoral Time should be used to celebrate and affirm difference and diversity
- Pastoral Time should be used to develop a sense of community, promoting a common ethos, shared values, tolerance and understanding
- Pastoral Time should promote spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding and knowledge
- Collective Worship/reflection should enable students to understand their thoughts and feelings and to connect with their spiritual self
- Collective Worship/reflection should be of a high quality, challenging students and enriching their experience and developing enquiring minds and the ability to articulate views
- Some acts of collective worship/reflection will contain elements which relate specifically to the traditions of Christianity, Hinduism, Judaism, Buddhism, Sikhism and Islam

3. **Academy Assemblies:**

Each Year Group will have a scheduled weekly assembly.

The assembly schedule will be co-ordinated by the Deputy Headteacher (Pastoral Care, Discipline & Attendance and Community) who will compile a programme of themes.

Tutors and students will often contribute to assemblies and guest speakers will be regularly invited. Academy assemblies will play a major role in fostering a sense of belonging and Academy identity. All assemblies will incorporate an act of collective worship/reflection contributing to students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Assemblies will provide opportunities for collective worship/reflection through readings, poetry, stories, use of artefacts, dramatic and musical performance and celebration.

4. **Educational Visits:**

Each Year Group will have the opportunity to visit a place of worship during their time at the Academy.

- Year 7: Fairfield Moravian Settlement
- Year 8: Ashton Central Mosque
- Year 9: Manchester Central Gurdwara and Manchester Jewish Museum
- Year 10: St Stephen's Church
- Year 11: Ashton Central Mosque

All students will gain an insight into worldviews at KS4 through the whole year group Drop Down Day - this will happen in Year 10 (inclusive of students who did not take Religious Studies as an option). On this day there will be educational talks from a representative of the following worldviews: Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Sikhism, Hinduism, Buddhism and Humanism.