



Religious Studies Policy

Approved by:	Staff, Learning and Leadership Committee	Date: 10 January 2024
Last reviewed on:	January 2024	
Next review due by:	January 2026	

Terms of Reference

Under the Education Act 1944 as amended by the Education Reform Act 1988, Religious Education must be provided for all pupils at County School. This has to be in accordance with an agreed syllabus. In West Sussex an Agreed Syllabus was drawn up in 1998. The Governors are satisfied that the teaching of Religious Education at Downlands is in accordance with that document.

Aims

The Aims of Religious Education as set out in the Agreed Syllabus are "To teach Religious Education so that children may:

- acquire a knowledge and understanding of the origins, content and development of the Christian Religion and other religions, their traditions and beliefs;
- understand the importance of religious experience and recognise the ways by which these experiences have been interpreted and expressed through a variety of religious traditions;
- appreciate the contribution that religious and spiritual ideas and concepts can make to their personal search for meaning and purpose in life;
- look beyond self and recognise the contribution of religion in the establishment of relationships and responsibilities in the family, among friends, in school, the community and the world at large;
- explore the consequences of religious belief and experience in the development of personal attitudes.
- To build an inclusive and welcoming school where difference is valued and celebrated and prejudice is challenged

Objectives

The objectives of Religious Studies at Downlands are:

To enable pupils:

- To learn tolerance and respect for people of different cultures and beliefs.
- To learn about how Britain developed through Christianity and its influences today.
- To think about our own ideas and beliefs.

Mode of Teaching Religious Studies

In Years 7, 8 and 9 RS is taught as a discrete subject for one period a week. Pupils study topics which follow national guidelines for the subject, which establishes a national standard and benchmark for the teaching of RS. Pupils are introduced to five major world religions in an issue based way studying, for example, rites of passage, the concept of justice, religious responses to suffering in the world and the environment. The founders of the main world religions are all studied in addition to this. In years 10 and 11, all pupils investigate perspectives on such issues as conflict, prejudice, the family and the environment in Humanities, PDC and Citizenship. Religious Studies is now fully integrated as a GCSE option.

The GCSE syllabus we currently follow is: AQA Religious Studies Syllabus A (9-1), which does not include coursework and involves a study of the 6 main world regions with a special focus on Christianity and Judaism in Paper 1.