

Religious Education Curriculum Statement

In line with the whole school curriculum statement, Christian ethos. Our vision is:

- We **aspire** to be a school where life is lived in 'all its fullness' (John 10:10).
- We **believe** in the God-given potential of every one of our students.
- We **succeed** by working together as a school where all can thrive and where excellence is valued.

As a core subject in a Church of England school, RE plays a pivotal role in promoting our Christian ethos.

The formal Religious Education curriculum

Aims: The aims of Religious Education, informed by the Statement of Entitlement for Religious Education, are:

- To enable students to encounter Christianity as the religion that shaped British culture and heritage and influences the lives of millions of people today;
- To enable students to learn about other major religions, their impact on culture and politics, art and history, and on the lives of their adherents;
- To develop understanding of religious faith as a search for and expression of truth;
- To contribute to the development of students' own spiritual/philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own faith and belief journeys.

Objectives: By the end of their Religious Education at Saint Aidan's all students should be able:

- To think theologically and reflect critically on ultimate questions;
- To reflect critically on the truth claims of within religions and beliefs;
- To analyse, interpret and apply sacred texts;
- To recognise that faith is commitment to a particular way of understanding and responding to God and the world;
- To analyse and explain the varied nature and traditions of the Christian community;
- To make a well-informed response to Christianity;
- To respect those of all religions and none in their search for meaning;
- To reflect critically on areas of shared belief and practice between different faiths;
- To reflect critically on shared and diverse beliefs and practices.

Key Stage 3

The Blackburn Diocese Programme of Study, Illuminating Pathways, is used as a basis on which to develop Schemes of Learning. These encourage students to question and discuss belief, challenge norms and formulate their own opinions, beliefs and thoughts. The current Schemes of Learning develop students' knowledge and understanding of Christianity, other principal religions, as well as other traditions and world views that offer answers to the ultimate questions. It offers opportunities for personal reflection and spiritual development. It enhances students' awareness and understanding of religions and beliefs, teachings, practices and forms of expression, as well as the influence and impact of religion on individuals, families, communities and cultures.

Key Stage 4

Religious Studies is a core subject at Saint Aidan's, with all students studying the full AQA Religious Studies A GCSE for two hours per week. This is an in-depth study of Christianity and Islam beliefs, teachings and practices, before applying these to thematic issues.

Assessment

Students' work is assessed regularly through assessments and homework to check understanding, to allow the right support to be provided, to inform the next stages of teachings and to allow students and parents to be informed of progress. Data is recorded on TAP sheets and shared with parents via Synergy and formal data reports.

Beyond the formal Religious Education curriculum

A range of activities take place over the course of the academic year to enrich student experiences. These include visits to places of worship, a multi-faith day and a range of speakers. Numerous initiatives are run throughout the year supporting charities such as Fairtrade. Religious Education also supports the worship schedule in addition to worship presenting key elements of the Religious Studies curriculum.