



# Longford Primary Academy

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## Religious Education Policy

### Curriculum Aims

The role of Religious Education in schools is to help prepare and equip all pupils for life and citizenship in today's diverse and plural Britain, through fostering in each pupil an increasing level of religious literacy.

Pupils should acquire:

- 1) An increasing core of insightful knowledge concerning religions and beliefs, both in Britain and in more global terms; By exploring religious beliefs, teachings and practices
- 2) A developing capacity to engage with ultimate questions and to formulate their own sense of identity and values; By engaging with fundamental questions
- 3) A growing range of the social, spiritual and emotional skills and dispositions appropriate to living well in a religiously plural and open society; By reflecting

Religious Education at Longford reflects the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, whilst taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain.

The three curriculum aims are supported by six broad dimensions:

- Beliefs, teachings and sources
- Practices and ways of life
- Expressing meaning
- Identity, diversity and belonging
- Meaning, purpose and truth
- Values and commitments

To support good learning and skill development through the curriculum opportunities pupils should, as appropriate:

- encounter people from different religious and philosophical groups who can express a range of convictions on religious and moral issues
- visit places of religious significance
- use IT to enhance understanding and present work
- discuss, question and evaluate important issues in religion and philosophy including ultimate questions and ethical issues
- reflect upon and carefully evaluate their own and others' beliefs and values using reasoned and balanced arguments
- use a range of forms of expression to communicate their arguments
- explore the connection between RE and other curriculum areas

### Curriculum Planning

At Longford, we follow the Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education (Statutory Requirements 2016). Units of work are planned to develop the three curriculum aims and allow for regular review of pupils' progress. Each year group has six units to be taught throughout the year. Where possible, these are linked to other topics within the curriculum overview. RE is taught for a full day each half term (or two/three half days). Lessons and activities should be carefully considered to ensure that there are no barriers to every pupil achieving.

### The legal position of religious education

Our school curriculum for religious education meets the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act (ERA). The ERA stipulates that religious education is compulsory for all children.

Parents do retain the right to withdraw their children from religious education (Section 386 Education act 1996). Parents should make this request formally to the principal.

At Longford Academy, we are an inclusive community but recognise that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from religious education or collective worship on the grounds of conscience, without giving a reason. Parents wishing to exercise this right are asked to write to the principal who will then invite the parents into school to discuss their concerns, clarify the nature of the RE and worship provided by the school and set out the options open to the parents as set out in education law. However, the right of withdrawal does not extend to other areas of the curriculum when, as may happen on occasion, spontaneous questions on religious matters are raised by pupils or there are issues related to religion that arise in other subjects. Where a pupil is withdrawn from RE and do not take part in alternative religious education, they will be supervised by an appropriate member of staff whilst doing work set by their parents which will seek to further their knowledge and understanding of their parents' beliefs and values.

### Assessment

Children are assessed against age-related expectations (ARE) and these are used to provide an overview of reasonable expectations of achievement across the three aims of religious education for each year group. Pupils can be assessed as working at greater depth (GDS), working at the expected standard (EXS) or working towards the expected standard (WTS) and this is reported termly to parents.

### Collective Worship

All pupils who are enrolled at Longford Primary Academy take part in a daily act of collective worship. This may be a whole school assembly, singing assembly or class assembly.