



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION and ACTS OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

1 Sponsors' Statement

- 1.1 All The Bishop of Winchester Academy policies exist to support the Sponsors' vision, Christian ethos and values that are embedded in the day-to-day and long term running of the Academy. Each policy evidences the commitment of the Sponsors to the principles and values of honesty, respect, hospitality, compassion, love, forgiveness, self-discipline, creativity and hope. This policy contributes to the development of young people and the community through all Academy activities and in particular through the specialism of Enterprise and Innovation, and Maths.

2 Introduction

- 2.1 At The Bishop of Winchester Academy, Religious Education is delivered under the terms of the 1944 Education Act and the 1988 Education Reform Act, and is in line with the Dorset Agreed Syllabus.
- 2.2 The principles and aims of The Bishop of Winchester Academy Religious Education syllabus follow the aims of the Dorset Agreed Syllabus; the principles are detailed below in paragraph 5.

3 Who does this policy apply to?

- 3.1 This policy applies to all staff, students, parents, Governors and visitors of The Bishop of Winchester Academy.

4 Who is responsible for carrying out this policy?

- 4.1 The implementation of this policy will be monitored by the Governing Body of The Bishop of Winchester Academy and remain under constant review by a designated member of the Academy Leadership Team.

5 What are the principles behind this policy?

- 5.1 The Bishop of Winchester Academy Religious Education Syllabus makes no assumption about the personal faith stance of students and does not seek to persuade them towards a certain religious belief or non-belief. Religious Education is accessible to all students regardless of their faith background.
- 5.2 The Bishop of Winchester Academy Religious Education Syllabus is intended to help students explore and evaluate a range of religious beliefs and practices and a variety of life experiences.
- 5.3 The Religious Education and Acts of Collective Worship Policy has 7 key aims:
- i. To help students grown in their spiritual development through reflection on feelings and relationships and through developing a sense of awe, wonder and mystery.
 - ii. To explore a variety of questions of meaning and consider religious and non-religious responses to them.
 - iii. To help students consider their own values and commitments and to develop sensitivity to the values and commitments of believers from other faith traditions.

- iv. To help students develop skills and attitudes which will enrich their personal, social and moral development.
- v. To develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and its' influence on individuals, society and culture.
- vi. To develop knowledge and understanding of the beliefs and practices of other world faiths practiced in Great Britain
- vii. To help students develop an understanding of the different forms and means of religious expression.

6 Procedure

Skills and Attitudes

6.1 Alongside the key principles and central aims illustrated in paragraph 5, The Bishop of Winchester Academy Religious Education Syllabus seeks to contribute to students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development by promoting the following skills and attitudes:

- i. Reflection
- ii. Empathy
- iii. Communication
- iv. Analysis and Evaluation
- v. Reasoning
- vi. Enquiry
- vii. Respect
- viii. Open-mindedness
- ix. Self esteem
- x. Sensitivity
- xi. Critical awareness
- xii. Appreciation and wonder

Teaching and Learning in Religious Education

- 6.2 Religious Education is placed within the Humanities Curriculum Area and seeks to work collaboratively with History and Geography particularly in Year 7 where Religious Education is taught as part of a Humanities programme.
- 6.3 Through the teaching and learning styles used in Religious Education we are constantly seeking to develop links with other curriculum areas. Cross curricular links and themes are highlighted on the schemes of work for each unit studied.
- 6.4 The schemes of work within Religious Education at The Bishop of Winchester Comprehensive School are designed to incorporate a wide range of teaching and learning styles. This is reflected in the use of drama, art, reflection, discussion, visits, visitors, story, video and artefacts.
- 6.5 Religious Education is organised into units of study for each year group, some of which explore a theme (e.g. The Bible and Other Sacred Writings in Year 7 and Festivals and Celebrations in

Year 8), whilst others explore a particular religion (e.g. Hinduism) in Year 9. Throughout the teaching of Religious Education at The Bishop of Winchester Academy we seek to develop students' knowledge and understanding of Christianity and also of the other principal religions, particularly those of our local community. In Key Stage Three students study Christianity, Judaism, Islam and Hinduism and in Key Stage Four Christianity and Islam form the core religious traditions studied.

- 6.6 Students are given the opportunity to study Religious Studies at GCSE and all students in Key Stage Four follow the Dorset Achievement in Religious Education (D.A.R.E.) course.

7 Acts of Collective Worship

- 7.1 As a Church of England Academy, collective worship is in accordance with the schools trust deed and is based on the foundations and principles of the Church of England and the Anglican Heritage. The effectiveness of such practices will be assessed through community and parent questionnaires, and through student Act of Collective Worship weekly logs.

8 Rights of Withdrawal

- 8.1 All parents have the legal right to withdraw their child from Religious Education or Acts of Collective Worship on grounds of conscience or conviction. A parent who wishes to exercise this right should approach the Vice Principal. Alternative provision where needed will be arranged by the school. We strongly encourage parents to contact the Vice Principal to discuss any anxieties or concerns they may have with the provision, policy or practice of Religious Education and Acts of Collective Worship at The Bishop of Winchester Academy.
- 8.2 It should again be emphasised that Religious Education is not a subject that seeks to convert or persuade students to a particular faith stance, but rather an open and exploratory subject that aims to contribute to students' broader education and personal development.

9 Policy review

- 9.1 This policy will be reviewed annually by the Academy Leadership team as part of the Academy annual review process.
- 9.2 This policy will be reviewed and submitted to the Governing Body for review every 2 years. This will allow Governors to assess its implementation and effectiveness.
- 9.3 This policy will be actively promoted and implemented throughout the Academy.