



Bishop Rawstorne Church of England Academy

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

*I have come in order that you might have life - life in all its fullness*

*John 10:10*

**FORTITER ET FIDELITER**

*Bravely and Faithfully*

This policy document and the content contained therein remains the responsibility of the Headteacher, and Governing Body of the Academy. No amendments can be made without their express instruction and they remain the final arbiters in any matters relating to it.

---

<b>Review date:</b>	<b>November 2020</b>
<b>Next review date:</b>	<b>November 2021</b>
<b>Reviewed by:</b>	<b>Mr Rawlinson</b>
<b>Approved by the FGB:</b>	<b>December 2020</b>

*This policy was written in 2018 after the SIAMS Inspection of December 2017 and covers the five year cycle up to the next inspection which will take place in December 2022.*



Bishop Rawstone  
Church Of England  
Academy

# Religious Education Policy



## **Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Religious Education Policy**

“The core purpose of any Church school is to maximise the learning potential of every student within the love of God.”

### **Bishop Rawstone Religious Education Vision**

*In line with the Statement of Entitlement, Religious Education at Bishop Rawstone concentrates on the systematic teaching of faiths in their own terms in order to aid students understanding of religions.*

*Students who follow the Religious Education programme in our school gain a deep awareness of their own and others’ identities; they wrestle with the mysteries of life and the answers given by a wide variety of religions and beliefs; they develop a clear sense of what is of real value in world today.*

*Students who follow the Religious Education programme in our school gain a deep knowledge and understanding of the teachings, practices and life stories expressed in a variety of ways within Christianity and other principal religions and world views. Through reflection on their own beliefs and values in the light of their learning, they grow in respect for themselves and others. We aim to challenge stereo types and cultivate academic skills to promote religious literacy so that our students can navigate the contemporary society that they live in.*

*Students who follow the Religious Education programme in our school demonstrate curiosity about men and women of faith and commitment who have changed individual lives, society and culture.*

### **Aims and Rationale**

In the simplest terms, studying religion and belief has a claim to be an indispensable part of a complete education because of the influence of religions and beliefs on individuals, culture, behaviour and national life. Most religions and beliefs offer answers to life’s deepest questions. And most young people are seeking answers to those questions, as they grow into independence and work out how to live a good life. Moreover, the majority of the world’s population are religious, therefore it is important that our students develop a robust religious literacy.

#### **The Faith Rationale**

Bishop Rawstone is a ‘faith school’, traditionally it may be thought that one of the main aims of Religious Education is to hand on the truth of that faith to the next generation. However, at our school we do not approach Religious Education with a ‘confessional’ rationale built around the transmission of doctrines, rituals and ways of life. Rather, for those students who do have a faith, we seek to nurture that faith and allow them to grow spiritually. However, we do not seek to indoctrinate students of no faith. For Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Religious Education is an academic subject. We aim to allow our students to grow academically in Religious Education to make their own choices about religion.

## The Whole Person Rationale

Often it is thought that one of the main aims of Religious Education is to help young people on their personal journey of identity, thus Religious Education fits in the Academy's curriculum approach of a wide and diverse education to enrich 'the whole person', helping young people to better understand themselves and the world. The rationale for Religious Education here is concerned with such questions as:

- What is the meaning and purpose of life?
- Where are we going?
- What is 'true'?
- Is my own existence meaningful, and is there anything beyond personal happiness?
- What skills do I need to succeed in life?

This enables students to gain insights from religions and philosophies and give them practice in 'skills for life', such as empathy, sensitivity, humility, and in thinking and communicating well.

Through this approach we focus on Religious Education to aid our student's **character development** developing young people spiritually, morally and ethically, the rationale is part of an overall intention to equip young people to lead a good life and achieve moral autonomy and responsibility. In the light of the many moral and ethical dilemmas we meet in life, ranging from the personal to the global, young people are seeking answers to questions such as:

- What is it to lead a good life? How do we know? Whom should we trust? How can I become my best self? What is my destiny and can religions or beliefs help me to understand it, shape it or accept it?

Thus we allow our young people to reflect on their own beliefs and values, seeking guidance when faced with moral dilemmas, so that they can be informed by their understanding of religious and philosophical principles.

## The Academic and Scholarly Rationale

The aim of Religious Education at this academy is to develop young people intellectually, it can provide a mental discipline to sharpen young minds. Since religious and philosophical systems offer a rich and complex field of study, they can bring intellectual stretch and challenge even if they are not directly relevant. This rationale focuses on questions such as:

- How can we explore religions and beliefs as a way of challenging and developing young people's intellectual abilities and skills?
- In what ways have religions and beliefs influenced us positively and negatively, and how can we develop arguments that evaluate their influence?

Religious Education is a study of religions and beliefs for their own sake, religions and philosophies exist, and they offer fascinating cultural phenomena, having limitless interest in their own right. This rationale is concerned with questions such as:

- Who was the author of this sacred text, and what meaning did it intend to convey?
- How can I penetrate through my own cultural assumptions, and my distance from the original context, in order to discover the truth about this text or object?
- What languages do I need to translate an ancient scroll?

This rationale may be justified in that it faces the intellectual challenge of exploring religions and beliefs and lays a claim to contribute strongly to young people's cognitive and cultural development. Religious Education in this sense is a specialist subject.

### **Objectives in Religious Education**

All students at KS3 study Religious Education and students at KS4 study Religious Education up to GCSE, there is no right of withdrawal from Religious Education. The school can under exceptional circumstances withdraw a student from the final GCSE examinations. At Bishop Rawstorne our weekly entitlement to Religious Education is a core component of the KS3 and KS4 curriculum. We also carry out faith trips to the local church, Blackburn Cathedral, Liverpool's Anglican cathedral and local Mosques. Students have opportunities to meet members of religious and belief communities through visits and visitors.

#### **KS3**

- Students in Year 7 study Religious Education for two hours each week.
- In Year 8 students study Religious Education for three hours over two weeks.
- In Year 9 students study Religious Education each week for two hours and in the spring term Year 9 students begin their GCSE study.

Students engage in a progressive programme over three years studying aspects of four religions: Christianity, Judaism, Islam and Hinduism. Periodic assessments enable the monitoring of students' progress.

## KS4

Religious Education is a core subject for all students. Generally students are taught in sets according to their overall ability and their academic performance. However, we do seek to balance groups and disperse some students across the higher sets who would be problematic if all grouped together. All students study a full course GCSE (Edexcel Specification B) for two hours each week.

Students Study 2 religions:

- Christianity
- Islam






AND apply these religions to two areas of study. Each of these areas is worth 50% of the GCSE:

Area of Study 1 is Ethics. This explores God, The Family, Worship as well as Life and Death. (50%)

Area of Study 2 is Peace and conflict. This explores God, Reconciliation, Worship and Peace (50%)

Students sit TWO papers at the end of Year 11. There are four sections within each paper with a combination of structured questions (worth 25%) and extended open response/critical thinking. (Worth 75%)

## Sample KS3 Assessment

Year 8 Summative Assessment – Understanding God from the Old Testament									
Building Skills for Learning	Starting Point 	Understand 	Gather Information 	Link Elements 	Forward Think 				
<p><b>“You can’t analyse God. He is too awesome, too big, too mysterious,” writes C.S. Lewis.</b>  <b>Discuss</b></p> <p><b>What do you think? Do you agree or disagree? What does the Old Testament teach about God?</b></p> <p>Understanding what God is like is important to people of all faiths. Jews and Christians read the Old Testament to try and find out more about God’s character. They use the information in the Old Testament to deepen their faith and understanding and it helps them show the rest of the world what God is like. Jews and Christians often use art, poetry, sculpture and design to reveal a little bit of God to the world.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. You are going to give an oral <u>power point presentation</u> to your class; this is going to explore what you think the <u>Old Testament teaches about God</u>.</li> <li>2. You are also going to <u>create a piece of art</u> that shows some of the things you have learnt about God from studying the Old Testament. A detail <u>explanation</u> of this must be included in your power point presentation so your thoughts and what you have learnt about God from the Old Testament can be clearly explained.</li> </ol> <p>Your presentation will be levelled, so do not forget to pay attention to the skills you need to show to gain the level you want</p>									
RS Skills	1 Recognise and Recount	2 Retell	3 Identify	4 Describe	5 Explain with reasons	6 Explain with evidence	7 Assess and consider different points of view	8 A considered evaluation with a well-reasoned conclusion	9 Evaluate the implications of ‘Living Religion’ in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century

## Example of our RE specific grade criteria 1-9

Grade	Grade Mastery	Bishop Rawstorne Pupil Levels 1-9 - Skill & Ability Criteria
8	Excellent Secure Developing Emerging	(A01) I can show my knowledge and understanding by doing the following: Write about religious beliefs with fluency. Confidently express an understanding of religious diversity. Deeply explain (analyse) the impact of belief & practices for believers, individuals, communities and society. Confidently use sources of authority. Compare and contrast different beliefs and practices by showing a mature understanding of the reasons for different approaches to beliefs/practices/sources of authority. (A02) I can use my knowledge and understanding to do the following: Use evidence and justification to argue my opinion. Understand different points of view. Understand & explain religious texts and examples to assess the truth of arguments. Use complex religious language with fluency. My spelling and grammar is faultless.
7	Excellent Secure Developing Emerging	(A01) I can show my knowledge and understanding by doing the following: Fluently write about religious belief. Confidently express an understanding of diversity within religion. Explain the significance of different (evaluate) practices and impact for believers including different uses of holy books/ beliefs/practices/source of authority. (A02) I can use my knowledge and understanding to do the following: Argue my opinions using evidence and justification. Reasoned consideration of strength of arguments. Effectively use religious texts and examples to support arguments. Use religious language with confidence. My spelling and grammar is faultless.
6	Excellent Secure Developing Emerging	(A01) I can show my knowledge and understanding by doing the following: Explain in detail key religious teachings and a range of diverse beliefs within one religion. Explain different religious practices within a religion (including interpretation of holy texts) explain why they are important. Assess the impact of religious beliefs on individuals/communities & society. Compare religious beliefs/practices and explain simply why differences exist. (A02) I can use my knowledge and understanding to do the following: Developed opinion with reasons that are supported with evidence or examples. Reasoned consideration of strength of arguments. Effectively use religious texts and examples to support arguments. Use religious language with confidence. My spelling and grammar is consistently accurate with few very few errors.
5	Excellent Secure Developing Emerging	(A01) I can show my knowledge and understanding by doing the following: Explain the key beliefs for the religion studied. Explain the key practices for belonging to a religion & their importance for the believer. Explain how religious beliefs influence: Individuals/Communities/Society & compare religious beliefs/practices. Explain simply why differences exist. (A02) I can use my knowledge and understanding to do the following: Clearly explain my opinions supported with valid reasons. Explain different points of view. Use religious texts and examples accurately to support explanation. - Use a range of key words with accuracy. My spelling and grammar is consistently accurate with very few errors.
4	Excellent Secure Developing Emerging	(A01) I can show my knowledge and understanding by doing the following: - Describe lots of religious beliefs. - Describe the important things that religious people do and why they're important. - Recognise how religious beliefs might influence behaviour in different ways. - Explain similarities and differences in beliefs and practices between religions and denominations. (A02) I can use my knowledge and understanding to do the following: - Give an opinion with reasons & explanations. - Describe different points of view. - Use religious texts and examples to support arguments. - Uses key words in written work. - My spelling and grammar doesn't get in the way of understanding my answers.
3	Excellent Secure Developing Emerging	(A01) I can show my knowledge and understanding by doing the following: Describe lots of religious beliefs & teachings. Identify the key practices for belonging to a religion. I can use key words correctly. Describe how religious beliefs might impact on the life of a believer. Describe similarities and differences in beliefs and practices between religions and denominations. (A02) I can use my knowledge and understanding to do the following: Give an opinion with reasons. Recognise different points of views. Refer to religious text and examples. Define key words. My spelling and grammar doesn't get in the way of understanding my answers.
2	Excellent Secure Developing Emerging	(A01) I can show my knowledge and understanding by doing the following: I can do the following: Identify a range of religious beliefs & practices that mean someone belongs to a religion. Know the sources of authority for a religion. Describe how religious beliefs might impact on the life of a believer. Describe similarities and differences in beliefs and practices between religions and denominations. (A02) I can use my knowledge and understanding to do the following: State an opinion with reasons. Can rank arguments in order of truth or importance. I try my best with my spellings and grammar. Can identify reasons for different points of view. Can define key words.
1	Excellent Secure Developing Emerging	(A01) I can show my knowledge and understanding by doing the following: Identify key religious beliefs. Recognise the key practices for belonging to a religion. Know the sources of authority for a religion. Identify how beliefs impact behaviour. Identify similarities and differences in beliefs and practices between religions. (A02) I can use my knowledge and understanding to do the following: State an opinion. Identify arguments for and against. Identify reasons for different points of view. Recognise key religious words. Try my best with my spellings and grammar.

## Principles of teaching and learning

In our teaching and learning approach we promote *equal opportunities* and provision of *differentiated activities* to suit the broadest ranges of ability, background and learning needs in our academy institution. Our most recent SEF seeks to focus on student premium candidates and underachieving boys.

We seek to engage students through various approaches such as discussions, debates, music, writing, drama, visual arts, and ICT. We make space for students to reflect, to explore beliefs and values, to ask their own questions, to investigate, research and respond personally

In Religious Education we put school policies on provision for *gifted and talented students* and those with *special educational needs* into practice through planning and inclusion in our development plans. These are monitored through our quality assurance systems.

Our schemes of work (learning) *balance* the different attainments targets (usually 'learning about religion and belief' and 'learning from religion and belief') through careful planning and resourcing of our curriculum.

Our *content* is selected through our Church of England status and the place of Christianity in the Religious Education curriculum and also through contemporary and relevant factors to our students and locality. Thus we plan to ensure a deep and comprehensive coverage of

Christianity as well as core aspects and narrative theology of other major religions represented in Britain. Of these religions we pay specific attention to Islam due to its contemporary relevance and it being one of our GCSE exam subjects.

We ensure that we make connections with students' experiences of religions with planned *visits and visitors* in our programme that enable students to come into first hand contact with adherents from a variety of traditions.

Religious Education lends itself to natural *cross-curricular* links within the school curriculum. History, Geography, Science and English all play significant roles in Religious Education content and execution. For example our rigor with literacy takes it lead from the school's literacy focuses as well as the need for excellent SpaG and writing technique demanded by our exam board. Moreover, this includes Religious Education's areas of Equal Opportunities, Multicultural Education, Environmental Education and Citizenship.

### Assessment, recording and reporting

The school has its own policies and approaches to assessment, recording and reporting which the Religious Education department follows. We also see it as vital that Religious Education teachers know how to evaluate how well students are doing in Religious Education and to feedback guidance on what they must do next to make progress through PAR marking Praise, Action and Response. This is an integral part of our practice that we build through spacing and gapping in our schemes of work to make 'marking and event'.

Whilst marking we assess students' knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes this is all recorded through the Academy's SIMS system thoroughly as well as in teacher mark books that are also monitored as part of our Quality Assurance programme.

### Assessment Monitoring Schedule



Assured text gives your document clean, crisp edges so it looks more polished.

#### RS Department Assessment Monitoring 2018-19

Yr	Assessment	Week	Date	PAS	NEQ/CRB	ADU	SED	JSP	LCO	TSI	Comment
7	Entry Level	3	18.09	x	x	x			x		
7	Books	6	9.10	x	x	x			x		
11	Books	8	6.11	x	x		x	x			
All	Mark Books	10	13.10	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
9	Final KS3	13	11.12	x	x	x	x				
11	Mocks	14	18.12	x	x		x	x			
8	Books	18	22.01	x	x		x		x	x	
10	Books	22	19.02	x	x		x	x			
9	Books	25	12.04	x	x	x	x				
Y10	End of Yr	33	04.06	x	x		x				
Y9	GCSE Unit 2	35	18.06	x	x	x	x				
All	Mark Books	40	09.07	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	

**Notes:**

Books will be looked at in the week indicated. Timetable may constrain drop in so books should be handed in those instances. A sample of three is required.

Assessments should be copied and handed in as soon as possible. A sample of 3 across a range of abilities and attainment is required.

KS3 samples should be passed to CR. KS4 samples should be handed to CRB & PAS.

PAS 06.09.18



## Book Monitoring Proforma

### Written Feedback Scrutiny

Details of Class (KS3 /GCSE/Mixed Ability/Set):

Date:

Number of books sampled:

Students spoken to (PP, boys, underachievers):



Bishop Rawstorne  
Church Of England  
Academy

		R	A	G
<b>Sampling of Student Work/Written Feedback - Checklist</b>				
Are disadvantaged students' books/files well-presented/ordered with targets clear and notes detailed?				
Are boys' books/files well-presented/ordered with targets clear and notes detailed?				
Is homework submitted by all students (in particular, boys and disadvantaged) completed on time and of at least 'good' quality?				
Is there evidence of inadequate or missing homework being redone?				
Is there evidence of a variety of tasks promoting a range of learning styles?				
Is homework appropriately set?				
Are annotations used to support the development of literacy?				
Is specific positive feedback given to celebrate achievement/reference made to progression?				
Can AfL be evidenced e.g. peer and self-assessment - use of success criteria?				
Do students act upon written feedback/do they respond to teachers' comments?				
Is work/inserts in books/files orderly?				
Curriculum Area Foci:				
<b>Positive practice:</b>				
<b>Areas for development:</b>				
<b>Signed:</b>			<b>Date:</b>	

## Homework

In the Autumn term of 2018 we began to use homework for weekly quizzing/revision. Part of this is also be quizzing for learning relevant quotations or Sources of Wisdom and Authority (SWA). We almost have a 3-year KS4. Simply we will have three set types of homework at KS4 that carry through every year. Creating routine and simplicity for our KS4 homework.

**Week A** – Students have to retrieve the 10 set keywords for the current topic (given to them on sheets for homework). They peer mark.

**Week B** – They used to have 5 random, interleaved prior topic keywords and 5 quotations. They will peer mark these too. The benefit of this is that they will see others students' quotes and it saves staff on marking.

Students will be told a topic and sometimes a religion from which they have to recall a quotation that could support a view (either 'for' or 'against'). They will need to recall an appropriate quote (not word for word – paraphrasing is fine) and where it is from. We are not getting students to learn specific references. We are getting them to remember the source e.g. The Bible, The Qur'an, Hadith etc.

## **The benefits of only 3 homeworks**

- Students always know what they need to do; it doesn't change
- All of these support research from cognitive science on long term memory
- Parents know what to expect
- Students cannot 'get stuck'. There's no new concepts (the keywords are initially just a memory task)
- They need few resources: keyword list and a piece of paper to write the MC questions
- It's very little work for the teacher. Just check their MC questions which takes max. 15 minutes for a class. The online quizzes mark themselves. I just put the results on the screen. They mark their own keyword tests.
- All homework set is of the same quality; no last minute rubbish made up by the teacher just because they have to set homework
- All 3 homeworks feed into important knowledge and skills they need for their exam

## **Strand 7: The effectiveness of Religious Education**

Strand 7 is the seventh and final strand of the SIAMS Schedule, 2018.

Strand 1: Vision and Leadership

Strand 2 : Wisdom, Knowledge and Skills

Strand 3: Character Development: Hope, Aspiration and Courageous Advocacy

Strand 4: Community and Living Well Together

Strand 5: Dignity and Respect

Strand 6: The impact of collective worship

## **Strand 7: The effectiveness of Religious Education**

In a Church of England or Methodist school, Religious Education (RE) should be non-confessional and is considered an academic subject. Inspectors in a SIAMS inspection will consider the expectations of the locally agreed syllabus in VC schools and academies that were former VC schools.

In this strand the following must be explored:

- How effective the school is in ensuring students flourish through the provision of high quality Religious Education reflecting the Church of England Statement of Entitlement.
- How effective the school is in ensuring that Religious Education expresses the school's Christian vision.

In developing effective Religious Education, a school must evaluate the extent to which:

- a) Through effective curriculum planning, RE provision reflects the Church of England Statement of Entitlement, or Methodist equivalent, develops religious literacy and meets statutory obligations.

- i. How well does RE help students to know about and understand Christianity as a living world faith through the exploration of core theological concepts using an approach that critically engages with text? How well does RE help students consider the impact and connection that Christianity has on Britain's cultural heritage and the lives of people worldwide?
  - ii. How well does RE enable all students to develop knowledge and understanding of other major world religions and world views and their impact on society and culture?
  - iii. How well does RE give students a safe space to critically reflect on their own religious, spiritual and/or philosophical convictions?
- b) Do teachers share effective practice locally and regionally and engage in professional development? Does RE have in place rigorous systems of assessment?

### **Strand 7: Grade Descriptors-Excellent**

It is better than Good.

For example:

- Students are inspired by Religious Education and recognise it as a challenging but safe space to explore their own and others' religious, spiritual and philosophical convictions critically and responsibly.
- Students confidently give age appropriate theologically, philosophically and sociologically informed accounts of Christianity and other religious traditions. Students have significant opportunities to engage in dialogue with a range of religions and worldviews. They give age appropriate evaluative accounts of the continuing role of religion in contemporary British and global society.
- Religious Education leaders in the school are recognised as actively involved in leading innovation

### **Strand 7: Grade Descriptors-Good**

- In a Church of England or Methodist school, Religious Education (RE) should be non-confessional and is considered an academic subject. Inspectors will consider the expectations of the locally agreed syllabus in VC schools and academies that were former VC schools.
- Curriculum planning for RE is effective, reflecting a good balance between theology, philosophy and human science.
- Students are able to engage with religious text and theological ideas. They have developed age appropriate skills of enquiry, critical analysis and interpretation. In this way well-constructed and coherent Religious Education provision results in students who give an age appropriate thoughtful account of Christianity as a living and diverse faith with some reference to theological concepts.
- Students demonstrate an informed and respectful understanding of a range of religions and worldviews. Religious Education lessons provide a safe space for

students to discuss religious, spiritual and/or philosophical ideas. Students explain ways in which their thinking has been challenged. Statutory obligations are met and Religious Education is largely in line with the Church of England Statement of Entitlement.

- The school leader of Religious Education has put in place systems for assessment that result in teachers and students being able to gauge progress and attainment in Religious Education. Assessment informs planning, securing accurate challenge and supporting students to gain a clear understanding of how to make progress. Good practice is shared within the school and with other schools through involvement with local, national and regional groups. The school leader for Religious Education has regular opportunities to share new ideas and pedagogy so ensuring that all staff teaching Religious Education do so with confidence and to a high standard.